

France warns Serbs over missing pilots

PARIS (AFP) — French President Jacques Chirac warned Serbia Wednesday of diplomatic retaliation if the fate of two missing French pilots believed to be held by Bosnian Serbs is not resolved, officials said. Mr. Chirac spoke with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic by telephone and warned him that if the two pilots were not returned, "France will be forced to draw all the conclusions," an Elysee Palace statement said. "After having consulted with the prime minister and the ministers concerned, the president had a new telephone conversation late Wednesday morning with President Milosevic," the communique said. "If the two pilots are not freed in coming days, France will be forced to draw all the conclusions," it added. Captain Frederic Chiffot and Lieutenant Jose Souvignat were shot down in their Mirage 2000 fighter jet on Aug. 30 over the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale at the start of NATO air raids against the Serbs. Meanwhile Defence Minister Charles Millon warned in the Senate that France will take measures involving the "diplomatic process" if the fate of the two men is not clarified.

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King, Peres pledge continued efforts for comprehensive peace in Mideast

Israeli premier consults King ahead of Washington meeting; snags in bilateral transport accord removed

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres reaffirmed after talks here on Wednesday that intense efforts would continue towards achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East and that Jordan and Israel had also worked out all problems blocking the signing of a transport agreement between them in line with their Oct. 26, 1994 peace treaty.

Addressing the press after nearly three hours of talks over lunch at the hilltop Raghadan Palace, both leaders paid tribute to assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and pledged to continue the path of peace launched by Mr. Rabin.

It was the first visit to Amman by Mr. Peres after becoming prime minister following Mr. Rabin's assassination by a Jewish fanatic on Nov. 4 and aimed at consulting King Hussein ahead of the Israeli prime minister's meeting with President Bill Clinton at the White House on Dec. 11.

"I can't say how happy I am to have this opportunity to welcome the prime minister and how satisfied I am with the talks we have had," said the King, wishing Mr. Peres "every continued suc-



His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres on Wednesday address the press after a meeting in Amman (photo by Yousef Allan)

cess in the times ahead."

The King expressed pride in belonging to the "peace camp" and said: "...We are determined to see that we continue to do our utmost for a comprehensive peace in this region."

"It has been a wonderful opportunity to talk about all matters of mutual concern and I hope we will meet again some time soon," he added.

Thanking King Hussein for the "most warm reception," Mr. Peres noted that it was

his first visit abroad as prime minister. "Normally the first address would be Amman and the first person I wanted really to consult about the future is His Majesty the King."

He added: "The peace between Jordan and Israel is being developed into and becoming a model of a real peace...of a promising peace. It can serve as an indication for the future."

The Israeli prime minister said he "wanted very much to

see the King" before his meeting with President Clinton "so we shall have an opportunity to compare notes because there is no reason why we should not act in concert for the sake of peace and for the benefit of each of our countries and I (feel) very obliged that His Majesty showed me the same warmth and openness and support as he did to my predecessor, the late Yitzhak Rabin, who acted and worked so seriously to make the

peace between our two countries such a meaningful and successful endeavour."

Mr. Peres is expected to visit Cairo on Thursday for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at the Erez crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip on Friday.

Both meetings, like Wednesday's summit in Amman, are part of consultations with Israel's partners in peace ahead of the White House meeting, where Mr. Peres is expected to present what is described in the Israeli media as a new approach to peace talks with Syria.

Answering questions before he left Amman, Mr. Peres said Israel was keen to pursue the opportunity to make progress in its peace negotiations with Syria as presented in the renewed American shuttle diplomacy in the region launched on Monday by Mideast coordinator Dennis Ross.

"We are determined to seize the opportunity..." said Mr. Peres. "There is no reason why shouldn't do anything for the sake of peace."

King Hussein agreed. "I personally feel this is a very important objective that will be pursued diligently and,

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Jardaneh presents draft budget to Lower House

Finance minister says economy performing well, unemployment remains a problem and government committed to balanced reforms

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government pledged on Wednesday to fight poverty and improve the standards of living but blamed the presence of foreign workers for the high rate of unemployment in the Kingdom.

Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh, presenting the 1996 draft budget to the Lower House of Parliament, also confirmed that civil servants would get an across-the-board salary increase of JD 10 with effect from May 1996.

The minister said about JD 80 million from the JD 1.745 billion budget were allocated for allowances for civil servants.

"The government will continue to improve the income level of employees," he said. "Around JD 80 million in the budget will be allocated to improve the conditions of employees, civil and milit-

ary. It will cover annual allowances and will also be used to support the National Aid Fund."

According to the minister, total revenues are expected to meet estimated expenses. A deficit of JD 163 million is projected if grants and assistance were excluded.

The figures of the General Statistics Department show that the rate of unemployment has decreased from 19.2 per cent in 1993 to 15 per cent this year.

"Nevertheless, the rates are still high," said Mr. Jardaneh.

"The national economy has provided new job opportunities as a direct result of its satisfactory growth. However, a major share of jobs is filled by foreign labour," Mr. Jardaneh said. "Jordanians refuse to accept these jobs and the offered salaries."

"The government has taken concrete steps to improve the status of civil and

military employees and retired personnel, the cost of which was estimated at 150 million for the year 1995," he added.

The budget deficit has decreased from 6.3 per cent of the gross national product (GNP) in 1994 to 4.8 per cent of GNP this year, Mr. Jardaneh said.

The draft budget will contribute 10.7 per cent to the national savings and 20 per cent to investment, he said.

According to the minister, local revenues are estimated at JD 1,499 million dinars or 32 per cent of the GNP in comparison with JD 1,297 million in 1994, an increase of 15.6 per cent.

Current expenditures are estimated at JD 1,225 million in comparison with JD 1,113.4 million in 1994. Capital expenditures are seen at JD 388 million in comparison with JD 317 million in

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GCC summit is tough on Iraq, extremism, security

Qatar stages unprecedented walkout to protest vote against its candidate for secretary-general

MUSCAT (Agencies) — Gulf Arab leaders on Wednesday unanimously toughened their stand against Iraq at a summit marred by an unprecedented walkout by the emir of Qatar.

The leaders of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman accused the Iraqi government of using its people's suffering to try to blackmail the United Nations into lifting the embargo.

Qatar, Oman and the UAE had appeared to hint at a need to ease the embargo, but all closed ranks at this year's Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit after hearing revelations that Iraq had hidden the scope of its weapons programmes.

Washington had expressed concern over the softening stand.

Although he backed the declaration on Iraq, Qatar's Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani walked out of the final session to protest the appointment of a Saudi as the new GCC secretary general.

Sheikh Hamad, attending his first summit after becoming leader of Qatar in a bloodless June coup, had proposed Qatar's Deputy Foreign Minister Abdul Rahman Al Atia as the new GCC head.

But Saudi Arabia and the four other Gulf states appointed Saudi diplomat Jamil Al Hujeilan as the new GCC head, violating the organisation's charter which requires unanimous support, Qatari officials charged.

Sheikh Hamad, who diplomats said has taken a hard

line towards Saudi Arabia, was the first GCC leader to walk out of a GCC summit since the organisation was founded in 1981.

It was not immediately clear whether Qatar's walkout was an indication of its complete withdrawal from the alliance, or whether it would host next year's GCC summit as scheduled.

Doha has shown an increasing tendency to strike out alone as Sheikh Hamad first became prominent in decision-making and then deposed his father in a bloodless coup this year.

Qatar this year has hosted Iraqi ministers, in contrast to a boycott on contacts maintained by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and discussed a multi-billion dollar gas deal with Israel.

GCC decisions have traditionally been made unanimously, but the group's outgoing chairman, Bahrain's Emir Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, had urged fellow members to change that.

He told the summit in a closed session on Monday that if leaders failed to reach unanimous decisions, they should be more flexible and dynamic to protect GCC unity and its future.

"We should adopt an open and advanced approach... so the brothers who agree on a path can achieve what they have agreed on, leaving the field open to whichever other brother wants to join them at the right time," Sheikh Khalifa said in a report, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters.

The final statement from

the three-day summit praised the emir's report.

In the final statement, the leaders accused Baghdad of "using the suffering of the Iraqi people as a means of pressure to obtain a lifting of the embargo without complying with U.N. resolutions."

They called for maintaining "international pressure on Iraq" until it applies all U.N. resolutions imposed after the 1991 Gulf war to free Kuwait, not just those requiring it to eliminate banned weapons.

The leaders also urged the Iraqi government to accept a U.N. resolution allowing Iraq to export up to \$1 billion of oil per quarter to buy food and medicine.

They expressed concern over revelations that Iraq had hidden the scope of its programmes for weapons of mass destruction from inspectors charged with dismantling Iraq under U.N. resolutions imposed after the 1991 Gulf war.

The GCC leaders urged the United Nations to increase its monitoring of Iraqi weapons programmes and said the Gulf countries were ready "to provide financial and political support" to the U.N. Special Commission, tasked with dismantling Iraq.

Under U.N. resolutions ending the Gulf war, Iraq must eliminate its weapons of mass destruction and allow for long-term monitoring before the oil embargo can be lifted.

Oil and trade sanctions

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Rabin's assassin faces Dec. 19 trial

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's confessed assassin, law student Yigal Amir, was formally charged with premeditated murder on Wednesday and his trial set for Dec. 19.

Amir, 25, sat calmly smiling in court here as the charges were read against him but said nothing, in contrast to his outbursts at earlier hearings.

Judge Menahem Elin ordered Amir, who has admitted shooting Mr. Rabin at a Tel Aviv peace rally on Nov. 4, held in custody until the end of the trial.

The charges, which included aggravated assault and conspiracy, were filed under "Case 498: The State of Israel against Yigal Amir."

The judge set the trial for Dec. 19 to give defence lawyers time to examine the charges against Amir, a Jewish extremist opposed to the Rabin's peace deal with the Palestinians.

But he delayed for a month bringing formal charges against Amir's brother Hagai, 27, and friend Dror Adani, 26, who are accused of making, possessing and carrying illegal weapons and conspiracy.

A separate trial will be held for those charges, which will include Yigal Amir, who is also accused of criminal conspiracy for plotting Mr. Rabin's murder and other, unsuccessful attacks.

Justice Minister David Libai said prosecutors preferred to separate the cases so as to not complicate the trial against Yigal Amir and give the defence the chance to delay proceedings.

"Hagai Amir and Dror Adani did not know about the Nov. 4 assassination plan," Mr. Libai told Israeli radio.

One of Yigal Amir's two defence lawyers, Yonatan Ray-Goldberg, of the West Bank, said the confessed killer had a "good heart."

5 killed, injured in South Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Four guerrillas and an Israeli soldier were killed Wednesday when an Israeli patrol ambushed a group trying to infiltrate the border "security zone" in South Lebanon, security sources said.

Three other Israeli soldiers were wounded in the clash with the Amal movement near Talloussa in the central sector of the buffer zone, which Israeli troops control with the allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

Several hours later a remote-control bomb attack in the occupied zone wounded three SLA militiamen, the sources said.

The Israeli patrol detected the Amal guerrillas early in the morning and ambushed them as they crossed into the zone, the sources said.

Three hours later guerrillas and Israeli troops were still trading artillery fire around Talloussa and an Israeli tank

was hit by a Sagger missile which caused no casualties, the sources said.

Israeli forces also called in air support. Three Cobra helicopter gunships fired eight air-to-surface rockets and strafed suspected guerrilla hideout just outside the "security zone," said sources who requested anonymity.

The Israeli casualties were all evacuated by military helicopter to Israel. The bodies of three guerrillas remained on the battlefield.

Amal, which is headed by Lebanese Parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berri, claimed the morning attack but gave no figures for any casualties.

But the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, which spearheads most anti-Israel operations in South Lebanon, said it was responsible for detonating a roadside bomb as an SLA patrol drove near Sojod.

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Israel to free 1,000 detainees this month

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel said on Wednesday it would release about 1,000 Palestinian prisoners by the end of the month under a West Bank self-rule deal.

The agreement spoke of two waves of releases. The first was carried out immediately on the signing. The second has to be implemented about three weeks before the (Jan. 20 Palestinian) elections." Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said.

"That means at the end of December," Mr. Sarid, a peace negotiator with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), told Israeli Radio. "A ministerial committee is now preparing the proper lists."

Israel freed about 1,000 prisoners in September after the deal to hand over six Palestinian cities, part of a seventh and dozens of villages was signed in Washington.

Palestinians fighting for the release of prisoners said about 5,500 are still held by Israel. Mr. Sarid said Israel would continue to keep in jail Palestinians convicted of killing Israelis.

"This is clear to everyone, including our Palestinian partners," he said.

Israel has closed a prison near Hebron as part of its redeployment under the peace deal, the Israeli army said.

The Palestinian prisoners, however, were not freed but transferred to jails in Israel.

"In the framework of the redeployment the detention facility in Dahariya in Hebron (district) was closed and the prisoners were moved to detention facilities of the army and the prison services inside the Green Line (Israel proper)," an army statement said.

In another development, a senior PLO official said less than half of the eligible

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King Fahd receives visitors in hospital

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia lifted a veil of mystery on Wednesday when it showed King Fahd greeting visitors for the first time since he was admitted to hospital a week ago.

Newspapers published front-page colour photographs of King Fahd, 74, while state-run television showed him seated in an armchair in the hospital as he spoke and smiled to visitors.

He appeared to move slowly and had a cane by his side. The royal cabinet said King Fahd took ill suddenly because of exhaustion due to overwork and that he needed time to rest, but it did not disclose the nature of his illness.

Diplomats and doctors said he suffered a blood clot on the brain.

The cabinet first said he had been admitted at King Fahd specialist hospital in Riyadh last Thursday for routine tests.

Among the 30 officials received by the king were three of his brothers: Defence Minister, Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz and Governor of Riyadh Prince Salman Ben Abdul Aziz.

Five of his sons — Faisal, Mohammad, Saud, Sultan

and Abdul Aziz — appeared by his side.

King Fahd was shown on Saudi television late Tuesday holding talks sitting in a salon with the Saudi ministers and princes.

The television said he held the talks in the evening. The monarch was wearing a black robe and white head shawl. He was gesturing animatedly with both hands and smiling during talks.

The king had a heavy walking stick at his side as in previous broadcasts of the monarch before he was hospitalised.

"There's a regular stream of people coming in to see him," a Western diplomat said. "I think he's still operating but from the hospital."

He did not know whether the king had been able to work immediately after he was admitted to hospital last week. Other diplomats said on Sunday they doubted King Fahd could resume work in the near future.

The king was unable to attend the annual Gulf Cooperation Council summit in Muscat this week, the first time he has missed such a meeting since he became king in 1982.

His half-brother, Crown

(Continued on page 7)

Clinton secures key backing for Bosnia mission

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton was gathering valuable political support for his Bosnia peacekeeping mission as American troops, knowing it will go ahead anyway, continued arriving in former Yugoslavia.

The first group of around 225 U.S. airmen who will fly in support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) operation set out from California on Tuesday for Germany, and then on to an undisclosed airfield somewhere in Europe.

A U.S. Air Force C-130 transport aircraft flew from Germany to the central Bosnian town of Tuzla, marking what military officials said was the first U.S. plane arriv-

ing in Bosnia on the mission.

The dozen troops on board joined a few hundred other personnel from the U.S. and other countries, mainly logistics and communications experts who are already preparing the ground for a surge of heavily-armed forces once the Dayton deal is signed in Paris on Dec. 14.

The early arrivals received a taste of what is to come as snow forced the delay of several NATO transport flights into the Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

While the city that hosted the 1984 Winter Olympics is no stranger to snow and was coping well, many of the rugged mountains passes which NATO troops will cross to reach Bosnia are virtually im-

passable at times during the severe Balkan winter.

The snow could also make it difficult to spot what experts say are millions of land mines scattered along more than 1,000 kilometres of confrontation lines in Bosnia.

In Washington, Mr. Clinton picked up the valuable support of two of his predecessors and a military hero on Tuesday as he sought congressional approval for his decision to send 20,000 Americans to join 40,000 other NATO troops enforcing the Bosnia peace deal.

Former President George Bush, who had to struggle for his own narrow congressional endorsement when he sent U.S. troops to the Gulf war in 1990, said he had "signifi-

cant misgivings" about the nature and duration of the Bosnia mission but felt U.S. policy on the issue was no longer under debate.

"The decision to deploy troops to war-torn Bosnia has been made," he said in a statement on Tuesday from Houston. "Therefore, I strongly urge both Houses of Congress to pass resolutions supporting our troops and America's efforts there."

"If it is seen that the president does not have the support of Congress, our standing as leader of the free world and the standing of NATO would be dramatically diminished."

Another former president, Gerald Ford, said Congress should insist on answers to

questions about the risk Americans would be facing in Bosnia, but should still line up behind Mr. Clinton.

Retired General Colin Powell, the Gulf war hero touted until recently as a possible 1996 Republican presidential candidate, also conveyed his support to the White House.

In Brussels, Secretary of State Warren Christopher called Wednesday for carrying out a negotiated settlement for Bosnia in ways that take into account "the needs" of the Serbs and other ethnic groups.

He said that would be one of the objectives of a conference Friday in London to

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Bahraini premier is confident that security and monarchy will survive

BAHRAIN (AP) — The only prime minister this Gulf monarchy has ever known said Tuesday that calls for democracy and violent protests by the Shiite Muslim majority do not threaten the survival of his ruling family.

Sheikh Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, Bahrain's prime minister since independence in 1973, said the violent demonstrations that broke out a year ago were an aberration on an island noted for its prosperity and stability.

"The sad thing about (the demonstrations) was that it was not for any reforms or for any kinds of changing course," he said in an interview with the Associated Press.

"But the good thing about the events (is that it) made the people of Bahrain think even more to hold onto their security," said Sheikh Khalifa, younger brother of Bahrain's ruler, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa.

Despite its tiny size and an indigenous population of only 500,000, Bahrain plays a key role in the Gulf due to geography and demographics. It is connected by a causeway to eastern Saudi Arabia, while its mostly Shiite population gives it a link to Shiite Iran.

In the Shiite villages only a few kilometres from the prime minister's modern offices, young men disagreed with the prime minister's assessment of the country's mood.

"We want a parliament," said several of the men. Some said they were imprisoned for months without charge after the demonstrations.

Graffiti spray-painted on village walls is more blunt. The Arabic words for "Death to Al Khalifa" — the ruling family — are not quite obliterated by successive layers of scribbles and vulgarities.

"The walls are where we express ourselves," said a 27-year-old man. "The newspapers, the TV, they don't express anything."

But, he added, the graffiti was a bit overdone.

"The walls don't really mean 'death,' they mean change," he said.

Still, the language was surprising in a country noted for its quiet, steady development, a literacy rate of 86 per cent and a far-sighted diversification of its economy.

Bahrain was the first Gulf Arab country to strike oil in 1932 and it is the first to start running out.

In preparation, Bahrain has actively sought foreign investment, and today there are about 50 offshore banks



Sheikh Khalifa Ben Salman and about 20 commercial banks. It also serves as the U.S. Navy's headquarters in the Gulf.

The idea of political change carries with it the fear of Muslim fundamentalism, the kind established by Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution.

Sheikh Khalifa declined to blame Iran by name for the recent unrest, but he spoke of "outside forces" and countries dedicated to "exporting ideology."

"Bahrain is so small that you can almost hear and feel what everyone says in every corner," the 59-year-old

prime minister said.

"It is so easy to get a can of spray (paint) on the wall and write a lot of words unheard of before. I don't see a threat to Al Khalifa," he said. "The monarchy can survive and will survive."

Sheikh Khalifa's brother has been the emir since 1961, perpetuating a dynasty that dates back to the late 18th century.

Last winter's demonstrations continued sporadically into the spring, periodically erupting into firebombings and violent confrontations with security forces. The government said five policemen were killed.

Opposition groups say nine protesters were killed and about 1,400 people were arrested, but at least two-thirds have been released.

The initial demands centred on jobs, but now opposition groups have focused on an elected parliament and the release of the remaining detainees.

"We had parliament before and we can have it again," Sheikh Khalifa said. "We are not frightened by an elected assembly."

Bahrain's only elected parliament was dissolved in 1975 after less than two years. The prime minister declined to say when another parliament might be created.

NATO plan extends Turkish military stay in former Yugoslavia

ANKARA (AP) — Despite protests from Serbs, the United Nations deployed 1,500 Turkish troops as peacekeepers in the former Yugoslavia, a land ruled by the Turks for four centuries.

Except for occasional Serb rocketfire outside their base, the 15-month-long U.N. mission went off without a hitch. No Turkish soldier was wounded.

Now the same mechanised unit is preparing to switch helmets and serve as part of the 60,000-member NATO peace force.

Turkey, which has close ties to Bosnia's Muslims and sees itself as a regional power in the Balkans, lobbied hard to play a peacekeeping role. With the backing of Washington, it secured the necessary U.N. approval to be part of the mission.

Any Turkish role in the Balkans triggers opposition because of Turkey's historical presence there. Greeks, Serbs, Bulgarians and Romanians fought wars of independence against Turkey at the end of 19th century.

Turkey, which is predominantly Muslim, feels close to Bosnians who converted to Islam under Ottoman rule. About two million Bosnian refugees and their descendants live in Turkey, their presence dating to the years after World War II when Yugoslavia came under communist rule.

As a precaution, the U.N. commanders placed the Turkish troops in Zenica, about 100 kilometres northwest of the capital Sarajevo, to keep them away from contact with Serbs.

The Turkish troops concentrated mainly on social services, such as providing health care or helping construction efforts.

Some 1,200 locals were treated at the Turkish clinic. Turkish soldiers also helped to repair 14 schools, three mosques and a church while restoring 50 kilometres of roads in remote areas, according to military records.

With the NATO allies preparing to implement the Dayton agreement, Turkish authorities are worried about the objections of Bosnian Serbs and fear an armed provocation could spark a clash with their soldiers.

"We are concerned about the security of our soldiers like any other participating country," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Nurettin Nuran.

Although the exact mission of the Turkish troops is still to be worked out by NATO, they will be kept in Zenica under the U.S. unit to be based in Tuzla. Foreign Minister Deniz Baykal said Tuesday.

There are some 900 reservists on standby in Turkey in addition to 1,500 soldiers already in Bosnia.

Full charges laid against confessed Rabin murderer

TEL AVIV (AP) — Following is the full text of the charges against the assassin of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"After the signing of the Oslo accords (for Palestinian autonomy) in September 1993, the accused decided to prevent their implementation by carrying out attacks against leaders in charge of the peace process."

"Above all he concentrated on (the then) foreign minister, Shimon Peres, and the head of the government and defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin."

"The accused decided to kill Yitzhak Rabin first because he believed he represented the greatest political danger."

"At this stage the accused called on (his brother) Hagai Amir to join him in carrying out his plans. Hagai Amir accepted."

"Next the accused turned to the other accused, Dror Adani, to join them and Adani also accepted."

"The three accused conspired to plan the murder of the prime minister. As part of this conspiracy they discussed several projects to eliminate the prime minister."

"a) To booby-trap the prime minister's car."

"b) To drill a hole in the water pipes leading to the prime minister's residence Ramat Aviv (near Tel Aviv) and insert nitro-glycerine to blow up the house."

"c) To use fire arms against the prime minister outside his home in Ramat Aviv. For this plan, Yigal and Hagai Amir reconnoitred the area by car to prepare their getaway. Realising it was too difficult to escape, they thought of killing the prime minister using a rifle with a lens or another long-range weapon, which they did not have."

"d) To park a booby-trapped car along the route taken by the prime minister's convoy."

"e) To fire an anti-tank rocket at the prime minister's car."

"f) To kill the head of the government using a pistol hidden in a microphone or with a booby-trapped tape recorder during an interview."

"All these ideas were finally ruled out because the accused did not have the necessary means to carry them out without being caught."

"From January to September 1995, the accused (Yigal Amir) planned on several occasions to kill the prime minister using a 9-mm Beretta pistol with the serial number 098231Y, which he was permitted to own."

"On Jan. 22 1995, the accused took part in a demonstration at the Yed Vachem (memorial) in Jerusalem. The aim was to kill the prime minister who was due to take part in the ceremony. But Yitzhak Rabin did not attend on the day because of the (Palestinian) attack at Beit Lid."

"On April 22, 1995, the prime minister was due to participate in the Mimuna (celebrations to mark the end of the Jewish Passover) due to take place in the Hall of Jerusalem Landscapes. After having read in the paper that the public were invited, the accused decided to go there. He went to Jerusalem armed with his pistol, but could not enter the room because invitations were required."

"On Sept. 11, 1995 at midday the prime minister took part in the inauguration of a new motorway junction at Kfar Shmaryahu (north of Tel Aviv). The accused left his home early in the morning, checked all the access routes and then returned home to fetch his pistol and went back to kill the prime minister. But it turned out the ceremony was already over and the prime minister had already left."

"On Nov. 4, the accused told Hagai (his brother) that he intended to go to the peace rally organised that evening in Tel Aviv and to use the occasion to kill the prime minister with his pistol. Hagai tried to dissuade him because of the tight security measures and the slim chances of success and survival."

"According to Hagai, the best means were to use a rifle with a telescopic lens which they did not have."

"However, the accused without the knowledge of Hagai or Adani decided to kill the prime minister at the rally."

"After the Sabbath (Saturday morning), the accused loaded his pistol with bullets prepared by his brother."

"1. A hollow-tip bullet."

"2. A normal bullet."

"3. A third with a hollow tip."

"4. Then eight other bullets, four normal and four prepared by his brother."

"He put the first bullet in the barrel and then slipped the pistol between his trousers and his body on the right hand side, with his shirt hiding the weapons."

"He left his home at 7:45 p.m. and travelled by public transport to the corner of Ibn Gvirol and Arlozorov streets (in Tel Aviv). From there he went by foot to the Kings of Israel Square where the rally was being held."

"The accused took off his kippa (Jewish skullcap), walked to the square and decided to place himself in the car park next to the city hall where the prime minister and foreign ministers cars were parked."

"The accused stayed there 40 minutes waiting for the end of the rally. The prime minister walked down the steps at 9:45 p.m. accompanied by his bodyguards. He went towards his car. A bodyguard opened the door and the prime minister made to get in."

"The accused approached the prime minister and fired at point blank range in his back with the aim of killing him. He fired more than three bullets. Two hit the prime minister and a third wounded a bodyguard, Yoram Rubin, in his left hand as he tried to protect the prime minister."

"The bullet which hit the bodyguard was a normal bullet. It wounded him causing him to be hospitalised for six days at the Ichilov hospital in Tel Aviv."

"The bullets which hit the prime minister were hollow-tipped. One hit him in the back on the right hand side, and travelled through the right lung. The second entered the left kidney and crossed the spleen and the left lung."

"The prime minister was rushed to the Ichilov hospital where he died at 11:30 p.m. He died from serious internal injuries to his lungs and spleen."

"The charges against Yigal Amir are:

- "Remediated murder;
- "Aggravated assault; and
- "Criminal conspiracy."

CPJ honours journalists

NEW YORK (J.T.) — At a press conference sponsored by the United States mission, William Orme, the executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) presented the annual International Press Freedom Awards, the U.N. has announced.

Mr. Orme, began by informing correspondents of the murder Tuesday morning of a journalist in Algeria, Khadija Dahmani — the 52nd reporter to be killed there in two and one-half years. The vast majority of killings was the work of "radical Islamic factions intent on destroying the secular press of Algeria," he said.

The most recent death marked the 24th murder of a journalist in Algeria in 1995, and the sixth woman journalist. He condemned the killings and called on all parties to the conflict there to vigorously denounce the killings.

Mr. Orme went on to announce that one of the recipients of the International Press Freedom Awards, Ahmad Taufik, would not be present at the awards ceremony Wednesday evening in New York because he was in jail on charges of violating Indonesian press law. An excerpt from a statement by Mr. Taufik was read out:

"Our government has attempted in various ways to crush the seeds of press freedom. To the government, the press is something to be feared, to be regarded as an enemy, to be crushed. They fear corruption, collusion, nepotism and human rights violations will be laid bare by the press. They fear that military actions in North East Timor and in other areas would be placed naked before the public and the world. The press is therefore subject to censorship and intimidation ranging from phone threats and bans on publishing certain reports to the revocation of press permits. Once again reporters are the blamed parties, the first victims of pressure on media

companies. I believe this only occurs in a republic of fear, oppressed by a corrupt and totalitarian government."

"Fellow journalists, I thank you for this award. I feel that this is not just for myself, but for my colleagues at the Alliance of Independent Journalists, other Indonesian journalists and all those whose goal is freedom of the press."

Mr. Orme said another award winner was unable to attend the morning's briefing, Jose Ruben Zamora Marroquin, editor-in-chief of Siglo 21 in Guatemala. He praised Mr. Marroquin's investigations of military and government corruption and human rights violations, despite continued threats of violence against the editor and his reporters.

Mr. Orme introduced Veronica Guerin, a correspondent for the Sunday Independent in Ireland. She joined with journalists around the world who dared to cover organised crime, drug trafficking rings and other organised crime groups increasingly intimidating journalists. Citing the case of a Cohan-American reporter murdered in New York for his coverage of cocaine trafficking cartels, he asked Ms. Guerin to explain the difficulties of such coverage.

Ms. Guerin said that during efforts to expose the drug barons in Ireland, gunshots had been fired into her home and a gunman had held her at gunpoint and shot her in the leg. Some months ago, when she attempted once again to contact one of the drug barons, she was physically beaten — an act that had a worse effect on her than the shooting. A number of journalists in Ireland had to work under police protection. That was "just a fact of a reporter's life in modern day journalism," she said. It was awkward to receive an award for getting shot. She would rather view it as a tribute to herself and her colleagues who continued to expose drug barons and individuals

Police confiscate 2 films at Cairo festival

CAIRO (AP) — Vice police have seized two foreign films at the 19th Cairo International Film Festival, deeming too much nudity not good for general audiences.

The confiscation brought a sharp rebuke from the festival's organisers, who called it a victory for intolerance.

"We don't show pornography but there are certain trends trying to sabotage the festival and ruin Egypt's film industry," Saadeddin Wahba said. "By doing this they are encouraging the terrorist groups to destroy our cultural monuments."

In recent years, Islamic activists have attacked books and films they deem insulting to Muslims. In some cases, they have succeeded in banning them. Mr. Wahba suggested the move was taken to placate those sentiments.

The films — France's "Trois Hommes et un Coffin" and Singapore's "Mee Pokman" — were taken from two theaters in downtown Cairo and further shows were banned.

The films had been authorised by the government's censorship department, but only for journalists and critics.

The annual two-week festival, which opened Nov. 28, is screening 200 films. Already, other films have come under criticism from Cairo's influential Islamist newspapers.

Tomb of pharaoh's minister uncovered

ABU SIR (R) — Archaeologists digging in the shadows of Egypt's pyramids said on Tuesday they had found the 4,200-year-old tomb of a pharaoh's minister which might be part of a much larger and previously unknown cemetery.

The tomb complex, discovered last month, includes some of the earliest examples of wall paintings decorating a burial chamber. Czech archaeologist Miroslav Verner said.

It lies in a stretch of desert just two kilometres from the "unfinished pyramid" at Abu Sir, about 20 kilometres south of Cairo.

"Everyone believed there was only empty sand between the pyramids, but our surveys suggest this could be a small part of a whole cemetery," Mr. Verner told Reuters.

Mr. Verner said his team had so far uncovered two funeral chapels in the complex, both with finely painted and engraved false doors through which the souls of the dead were believed to pass on their journey to the afterlife.

Under one of the chapels they found a burial chamber and six burial pits, around 15 metres deep, where lesser members of the minister's family may have been buried.

Egyptian archaeologist Zahi Hawass welcomed the find "as a very important discovery."

"Now we uncovered this site we have a race to preserve it," said Mr. Verner as teams of Czech and Egyptian workers measured a chapel and prepared to dismantle for storage the crumbling limestone walls, decorated with scenes of funeral offerings.

"We have to move fast."

This whole chapel is covered with richly decorated reliefs," Mr. Verner said, pointing to the red painted walls riven with deep cracks.

The tomb belonged to a minister called Kar, who lived in Egypt's sixth dynasty (2345 to 2181 B.C.), but it was unclear whether the one burial chamber uncovered so far contained Kar's remains or those of a relative with the same name.

Blue inscriptions carved on the white limestone sarcophagus inside the burial chamber refer to Kar as a "supreme judge," while in the larger of the two funeral chambers he is described as "vizier," or minister.

"Either he had the first chamber built before being promoted to minister and then built a second, or his son, also called Kar, could be buried in the same complex," Mr. Verner said.

Kar, whose hieroglyphic name is followed by the sign of a handbag on reliefs inside the tomb, lived in a time of declining pharaonic influence, Mr. Verner said.

Egypt's pharaohs, based in the ancient city of Memphis, were losing power to the nomarchs, or regional chiefs, and viziers themselves were no longer chosen from among the pharaoh's immediate relatives.

But that did not prevent Kar from preparing an extravagant burial for himself and his family.

Inside the burial chamber, under a red plaster ceiling speckled with black, a handful of bones lie inside the broken sarcophagus. A few colourful plaster frescoes remain on the otherwise bare white walls.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
13:00 Tins — The Happy Professor	
13:30 — Pirman Sam	
13:50 — Hurricanes	
13:50 — My Secret Identity	
14:10 — NBA	
15:00 — The New Leave it to Beaver	
15:30 — White Heat	
16:30 — Gillies World Sport Special	
17:00 — Sophie Et Virginie	
17:30 — Varieties — Taratara	
18:00 — News in French	
18:15 — Magazine — Archimede	
19:35 — News Headlines	
19:35 — Carol and Company	
20:00 — The Album Show	
20:50 — Glass Virgin (Ep.1)	
22:00 — News in English	
22:25 — Feature film: "Thorn Well"	
23:30 — Drama — Nancy Wake (Ep.1)	
PRAYER TIMES	
04:55 — Fajr	
06:17 — Sunrise (Dhuhr)	
11:27 — Dhuhr	
14:13 — Asr	
16:36 — Maghrib	
17:58 — Isha	
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Sweidat, Tel. 810741
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624594L	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Deserts	3 / 15
Jordan Valley	9 / 21
Yesterday's high temperatures:	
Amman 14 Aqaba 22. Humidity	
readings: Amman 74 per cent.	
Aqaba 42 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Hanna Mansour	750197
Dr. Adnan Zaghoul	898140
Dr. Jamal Jaber	847351
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyib	620115
Firas pharmacy	641912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asana pharmacy	637055
Nutrokh pharmacy	636072
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisan pharmacy	637641
Najmoun pharmacy	636772
Najm pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ahmad Qanu	281741
Al Ouds pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Abdul Karim Khushushneh	993023
Khallaf pharmacy	983417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	627111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843472
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	877467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	767111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010231
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	660100
Jordan Electricity Authority	
Electric Power	815615
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53207
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53207

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	81381/332
Khalaf Maternity, J. Ann	6423816
Al-Khalaf Maternity, J. Ann	6423412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mulhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Simdani	607071
Shmeisan Hospital	669131
University Hospital	685845
Al-Mushtak Hospital	6672779
The Islamic, Abdul	66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdul	6641646
Al-Muhajir	771016
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	7751126
Army, J. Marka	8916115
Queen Alia Hospital	6022450
Beirut (RJ)	
Amal Hospital	607155
The Arab Centre for Health and Special Surgery	865199
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	09983323
Zarqa National Hospital	09983360
19:10 — Bunkul, Calcutta (RJ)	
19:15 — Al 'Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
19:45 — Bunkul, Calcutta (RJ)	
20:10 — Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)	
20:30 — Moscow (RJ)	
23:30 — Larnaca (RJ)	
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
04:00	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:20	Sana'a (RJ)
09:00	Aqaba (RJ)
09:20	Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:30	New Delhi (RJ)
10:05	Beirut (RJ)
10:35	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:40	Colombo (RJ)
16:25	London (RJ)
18:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:25	Athens (RJ)
19:10	Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:15	Al 'Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:45	Bunkul, Calcutta (RJ)
20:10	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
20:30	Moscow (RJ)
23:30	Larnaca (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
12:40	Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
12:40	Sharjah (AH)
13:00	Riyadh (SV)

RAILWAY TRAIN	
07:00	Doha (QF)
10:10	Dubai (EX)
19:00	Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:10	Beirut (ME)
20:20	Cairo (MS)
23:10	Amsterdam (KL)
01:15	London (RJ)
01:20	Amsterdam (KL)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:15	Beirut (RJ)
06:30	Aqaba (RJ)
10:30	Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
11:00	Moscow (RJ)
11:00	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
11:05	Montréal, Toronto (RJ)
11:30	Rome (RJ)
12:00	Paris (RJ)
12:05	London (RJ)
12:15	Athens (RJ)
19:50	Larnaca (RJ)
20:15	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:30	Cairo (RJ)
20:35	Jeddah (RJ)
23:00	Jakarta (RJ)
23:30	Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
01:00	Jeddah (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:50	Bouai, London (BA)
07:45	Beirut (ME)
13:30	Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain, Muscat (GF)
14:30	Athens (AH)
14:40	Riyadh (SV)
17:15	Amman (RJ)
17:15	Dubai (EX)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	700 / 500
Banana	600
Banana (Mukammur)	620
Carrot (imported)	950/750
Carrot (local)	120 / 80
Cauliflower	130/80
Cucumbers (large)	200/120
Cucumbers (small)	350 / 280
Eggplant	170 / 120
Grapefruit	750/600
Lemon	230/150
Marrow (large)	180 / 120
Marrow (small)	280 / 200
Olives	650/500
Onion (green)	220/150
Onion (dry)	240 / 160
Orange	540/400
Pepper (hot)	200 / 150
Pepper (sweet)	200/150
Potato	240 / 200
Radish	140/80
Spinach	130/80
String Beans	600 / 500
Tangerine	300/200
Tomato	290/180



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday chats with children at the SOS village in Tabarbour (Photo by Crystal)

Queen distributes prizes to SOS drawing competition winners

AMMAN (J.T.) — Fifteen children who won the drawing competition entitled "Hussein's Jordan: Year 2000" organised by the SOS Association in cooperation with Al Ahl-i-Ahla received prizes Wednesday from Her Majesty Queen Noor at the SOS village in Tabarbour, according to a Royal Court statement.

The fund-raising competition, which was held on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's 60th birthday, featured the works of 438 children between the ages of 5-14, whose JD 1 participation fee was donated to the SOS children in Jordan, the statement said. Queen Noor, who toured

the exhibition, commended the private sector's invaluable support of the SOS villages, which has enabled them to provide Jordanian orphaned children with a caring family environment. The Queen visited the village's two new houses, where four biological brothers and sisters were reunited last Sunday after living apart for the past two years in separate institutions, the statement said.

There are 343 SOS Children's Villages located in 125 countries, including 16 villages in the Arab World. The Amman and Aqaba SOS villages, which were founded under the auspices of the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation, were inaugu-

rated by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor in 1987 and 1992 respectively.

The villages currently care for 170 orphaned children who live there until the age of 13 when they are subsequently moved to the SOS Girls and Boys Houses, which accommodate 20 teenagers at present.

Queen Noor, accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Princess Iman and Princess Raiyah, HRH Princess Rajwa Ali, was received by Chairman of the SOS Children's Village Association Mr. Ja'far Toukan, the National Director Mrs. Lina Kopyr and the SOS board members, according to the statement.

Telecommunications Corporation denies taking decision to cancel free local calls

By Samir Barhoum
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Director General of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Waleed Dweik Wednesday denied the corporation took any decision to cancel free local telephone calls granted to subscribers on annual basis in order to be able to reduce charges for international calls.

Mr. Dweik said a recent statement by Minister of Post and Communications was misunderstood by the press as well as the National Society for Consumer Protection which threatened to take the case to court in case the TCC took any move to hike fees or cancel free calls.

"All that happened was that a recent statement by the minister was misinterpreted," said Mr. Dweik, who added that the minister was rather referring to a general study being conducted by the corporation on means to improve the TCC's performance and compare service costs to fees charged by the corporation from subscribers.

Admitting that the issue of cancelling 1,000 local telephone calls granted annually to subscribers was one of the options included in the study, Mr. Dweik said this did not

mean that the corporation neglected other options.

"The minister was frank and said that one of the ideas being studied was to cancel free phone calls," said Mr. Dweik, who stressed the study was mainly meant to review the general performance of the corporation at a stage when it is being prepared to work on commercial basis.

"The study, which started some time ago, deals in general with the 'basket of fees' charged for local and foreign calls in addition to the subscription fees," he said, noting that the study will take a few more weeks to complete.

Once it is finished, he said, the public will be familiarised with its outcome.

President of the National Society for Consumer Protection Mohammad Obeidat said the society will fight any TCC decision to cancel free local calls and threatened to take the issue to court to protect consumers.

Dr. Obeidat, who is also a professor of economics at the University of Jordan, said the society prefers to resolve such an issue amicably with the TCC and said he hoped the corporation would back off in case it was contemplating any such decision.

He said the society has consulted several legal advisors on the issue and found out that the TCC had no legal ground to cancel the free local calls granted to subscribers since such calls are provided for in contracts signed with the corporation.

Dr. Obeidat asserted that in case such an issue was referred to court, the society would win the case.

He recalled that almost a year ago the society secured the TCC's approval to increase the number of free phone calls and make the number of calls spread over four quarters, meaning each subscriber is entitled to having 250 free local calls every three months.

Last week, the society sent a memorandum to Mr. Dweik urging the corporation not to take any such decision.

"More than a year ago, we presented you with a memorandum on increasing the number of free phone calls and dividing them over three-month periods and you responded to our request favourably... but we were surprised by news reports about your intention to cancel all free local calls which benefit the bulk of subscribers with low income," the memo, signed by Dr. Obeidat, said.

The memo said any such decision will only benefit those with high income who can afford to make international calls, while other citizens were suffering from the "worsening economic situation."

It said that citizens' complaints to the society have prompted it to defend subscribers' rights, even if it had to take the TCC to court.

It added that any change to telephone contracts should only apply to new subscribers rather than old ones.

Mr. Dweik, on the other hand, said telephone subscription contracts can be automatically changed in case the Council of Ministers introduces any amendment to the telephone system.

"The signed contract is part of the telephone system of 1992 which determines the number of free local calls and the system can be amended by the Cabinet. Thus, in case the Cabinet amends the system, this will automatically amend subscription contracts," he said.

Mr. Dweik said subscribers should not worry since no cabinet decision on the issue has yet been taken.

Jordan, Egypt work to regulate labour intake, says ministry

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Labour Ministry Wednesday told the Egyptian embassy in Amman that ministry measures to control and organise the local labour market and which mainly affected Egyptians were taken in the best interest of Jordan and Egypt.

Ministry Secretary General Saleh Tarawneh said most illegal workers in the Kingdom who responded to ministry demands and regulations on work permits were Egyptians.

Coordination and cooperation between the ministries of labour in both

countries can best guarantee regular intake of Egyptians into the local Jordanian labour market, said Mr. Tarawneh at a meeting with the embassy's labour attaché, Ahmad Munib.

In a statement to the Jordan Times Saturday Minister of Labour Nader Abul Shaer said the strongest measures imposed by the ministry have resulted in 100,000 out of an estimated 250,000 foreign workers adjusting to regulations and forcing an estimated 70,000 workers to leave the country.

The ministry had set a

three-month deadline that ended on Oct 26 for non-Jordanian workers to obtain work permits and regularise their status to ensure continued employment.

The deadline was set in line with a decision adopted by the Council of Ministers in August 1995 banning the employment of non-Jordanians in 15 professions but left the door open for foreigners to work in areas like agriculture and construction as well as domestic work.

In August only 42,000 guest workers were found to have acquired valid work

permits out of a total of 260,000 in the country, according to the minister.

Mr. Tarawneh said priority for work in Jordan is given to Jordanians, Arab workers and non-Arab workers in that order. He also said most of the guest workers were Egyptians and mainly employed in agriculture, services, and construction in addition to professions such as midwives, nursing, academics and computer specialists.

Mr. Munib said the Egyptian government was responding to Jordan's regulations in this matter and

has been informing Egyptian workers on Jordan's new labour regulations.

According to Finance Minister Basel Jaradeh's budget address to parliament Wednesday, unemployment in Jordan stands at 14.6 per cent in 1995, down from 19.2 per cent in 1993.

Burdened by a foreign debt of around \$6.5 billion, Jordan introduced a five-year economic plan in Sept. 1993 aimed at slashing the unemployment rate to nine per cent by 1997 by creating 224,000 jobs.

Court hears testimony in sabotage case

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The State Security Court Wednesday heard the testimony of a witness in the case of six people known as "Islamic revivalists", accused of sabotage.

The six defendants, who pleaded not guilty last month, are charged with illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive materials, automatic weapons and guns for illicit use, and belonging to an illegal organisation.

Khalid Sa'ed Abdullah Hassan, who was first a suspect, but then became a witness for the prosecution, told the court his relationship with the six defendants began in 1990.

"During the 1990 Gulf crisis I met Sheikh Saber who proposed to establish an Islamic group to fight the Jews in the occupied territories, and I accepted," Mr. Hassan told the court.

He added that the group formed a regulatory council which included the other five defendants and they agreed only to conduct operations in the occupied territories—not Jordan.

The witness also said that in July 1994, he was asked by the defendant Saber to travel to Syria to meet an Islamic Jihad leader, known as "Abu Abed" to recruit men and train them in Syria to conduct operations in the territories "but Abu Abed refused and we returned to Jordan the following day."

Mr. Hassan added that Saber showed him a bag of explosives and weapons which Saber kept in his house.

The defendants' attorney contested Mr. Hassan's testimony charging that some of his statements contradicted his earlier statements as cited in the charge sheet.

The attorney questioned the validity of the witness's testimony arguing that because he was first a suspect then a witness he might be testifying for his own benefit.

Presiding Judge Hafez Amin set Dec. 10 as the new date to hear more witnesses and to present evidence in the court in addition to hearing the testimonies of explosive and weapons experts.

Photography exhibition focuses on the triumph of light

By Mahmoud I. Mufti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — There is tremendous depth and diversity in the talent of poet, photographer and painter, Ibrahim Nasrallah. For the purposes of this article in assessing the nature of his photography, on display at Darat Al Funun, barely the surface will be scratched, for delving into only one of those elements requires an essay of considerable length.

The sublime nature of his photographs as well as that of the setting, Darat Al Funun, render them mutually complementary.

Mr. Nasrallah's exhibition is essentially about "The Triumph of Light." There has been a fable circulating in the world of serious photography that "black and white" is the format of choice for discerning, reflective, self-respecting photographers.

Every now and then, however, someone of the artistic stature of Ibrahim Nasrallah comes along and deals a heavy blow to that myth. Sadly, the myth persists all the same, but interjections of supremely capable colour photography, such as Mr. Nasrallah presents in this exhibition, will undoubtedly contribute to the closing of this rift between fable and

truth.

This exhibition, featuring ultra close-up shots of selected plant-life as well as of rock formations, imbues the subject matter with a special identity; an identity that is best described in the artist's own words: "Once the object of interest is identified, it needs to be scrutinised and engineered."

The details of the details must be harnessed to create the formation (Takween, in Arabic).

This has to be carried out with a particular sensitivity to light and background."

Indeed, the viewer feels an impending impulse that the works constitute a treatise on the interrelationships of light, shade (which is the inverse self of light), texture and spirit.

The object becomes the creation; a creation in the sense that it has been engineered by the artist to fulfill its mission of exuding the sense of celebration that it has been denied.

"All too often, it is larger objects, set against elaborate backgrounds, that steal the show and captivate the eye," the artist explains.

The artist feels that the latter approach in photographic renderings, among others, has saturated the art world and has come very close to

exhausting its once-rich arsenal of imagination and creativity.

This more recent approach—of concentrating on the "humble and minuscule" of nature's often-neglected treasures, blowing them up to fill the whole frame—although not pioneered by Mr. Nasrallah, has certainly been taken to new frontiers by him.

One is alerted not to ignore the fact that the artist sees his photographic work as a natural extension of his poetic side.

The discerning viewer can likewise see the poetry and philosophy in the artist's work.

It is a philosophy that resonates with the conviction that "small is beautiful", that "all fauna great and small" deserve the same attention; attention that both the human and artificial eye can grant.

Often ignored and belittled fragments of plant-life form the subject matter in the artist's work.

Resorting mostly to frays and fragments of dried fibres of palm, oak and quinine trees, the artist focuses, in an astoundingly consistent and tireless manner, on the several elements that interrelate to produce a "soulful" photograph: light, texture and contextual placement.

The result (in most cases pertaining to fauna and rocks alike) is an image animated with life, character and spirit—not to mention the richness of colour that many visitors to the exhibition have gaspingly described as "moving", and in certain cases, "Petrified" in its subtleties and blends of vermilion, pink and carmine.

Some compositions look like the inside walls of the "Juta Caverns" of Lebanon, evoking the splendour of the centuries-old stalactites and stalagmites.

The shots of some of the rocks bespeak a divergent philosophy; not all of them "home in" on the tiniest of details. A significant number are of expanded views in Wadi Wala. For instance, an entire section of a jagged cliff side; another, of a trail of animal footprints stamped in a mineral mud-bed, set in a clearing between rocks.

A significant portion of the works evoke human sensuality in its natural forms, smoothness of textures and even colours.

One particular weather-beaten sheath of palm fibres, rich in deep folds, colours, varying textures and perforations, makes an eerie resemblance to an old woman of voodoo culture.

Right next to it is another

fibrous membrane resembling a serene butterfly, resplendent in the diffused natural light, wings outstretched shortly after emergence from its cocoon. It almost exemplifies the delicate notion of the vulnerability of life. In an odd protracted way, it is even impregnated with implications of the vulnerability of human life.

In what sheds light on aspects of the artist's main bastion, poetry, its philosophy and implications to his photography, Mr. Nasrallah reflects that "...the object must be humanised and rendered relevant in the human experience. By recognising that nature embodies everything and acts as a mirror onto things, one can truly appreciate the beauty of the earth and arrive at an awakening as to the importance of preventing its mutilation and pollution...striving for its preservation."

Mr. Nasrallah proudly asserts his environmentalist leanings and feels that poetry and art share a crucially-important element: They can serve each other symbiotically. They both emanate from a common source: the "soul" of the artist in his/her capacity as perceiver of the treasures of nature and as articulator—through verse—of the resulting efflux of feelings.

He feels that of the three different but interrelated disciplines, poetry, photography and painting, the first is the one that pulsates in him most vividly; the latter two are serious hobbies that complement the first, acting as extensions of his feelings "where the pen can go no further."

At that juncture, different mediums are employed for the continuation of the spiritual journey. "If the 'word' is, in essence, something written by pen, then the 'picture' is a text realized by light," discloses the artist. Light is thus a language in the reality of Mr. Nasrallah. Harnessing it, controlling it and manipulating it renders it a "tool of expression."

At that level (of being at one with light) and only then, can the artist enable a photograph to fulfill a similar artistic and spiritual mission as a painting (in which the artist has control over many more of the factors).

In skilled hands, or rather, teamed up with a "gifted soul," such as Ibrahim Nasrallah's, light is both harnessed, tamed and persuaded to act as a tool to meet the challenges and restrictions of photography...as compared with painting.

This is the background against which the visitor may apply conclude that this exhibition is indeed predominantly about the "Triumph of Light."

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- * "Tacones Lejanos" and "La Historia Interminable II" (for children) at 4.30 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. on Thursday at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman.
- * "Memories of Monet" (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis) on Thursday at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh at 5.30 p.m.

SEMINAR

- * "South Africa's Current State—Politically and Economically" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, First Circle on Thursday at 10.00a.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Bawadi's "Season Of Joy" exhibition, a collection of rugs and ceramics, at the National Ceramics Centre, Khaldi (9.00 a.m.-7.30 p.m. Tel.
- * Photography by poet Ibrahim Nasrallah entitled "The Autobiography of

- an Eye" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh. (Until Jan. 4).
- * Paintings by a German artist group at the Orthodox club, Abdoun.
- * Photograph exhibition "Biblical Itineraries" at the French Cultural Centre. (Until Dec. 30).
- * Abstract art by Abdul Raheem Wakid at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (Until Dec. 6).
- * Sculptures & paintings by Iraqi Artist Ismail Fattah, at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh.

SHORT STORY RECITAL

- * By several novelists at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh on Thursday at 6.00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS SALE

- * Gifts and crafts by Suha Lallas Kassissieh at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, off Wadi Saqra Street (until Dec. 31).


Bani Hamida


MERRY CHRISTMAS

Here comes the red season!

A variety of gift items, produced specially for this occasion is on display at the **Bani Hamida House**

Location: Jabal Amman, 1st circle, Rainbow st.
Duration: December 10th through January 2nd
open daily from 8:00 till 6:00 including Fridays & official holidays.

Tel. # 658696/7

India mosque razing anniversary passes quiet

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Lawmakers exchanged blows in a state legislature and several hundred people were arrested, but the third anniversary of the razing of the Babri Mosque passed off largely peacefully Wednesday.

In the northern Indian town of Ayodhya, where the 16th century mosque was destroyed by Hindu extremists on Dec. 6, 1992, no incidents were reported despite threats by Hindu and Muslim groups to hold rival demonstrations.

A bomb exploded in a market in the Punjab city of Ludhiana, injuring seven people, but it was not immediately clear if the blast was related to the anniversary of the razing of the mosque, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

Some 350 people, mostly Muslims, were detained in Lucknow, capital of Uttar Pradesh state, where Ayodhya is located, to prevent them from marching on the site of the former mosque, the news agency said.

Girish Behari, the Uttar Pradesh director-general of police, told PTI that several peaceful rallies were held in Ayodhya Wednesday but all took place some distance from the heavily guarded rubble of the mosque.

They included protests by Muslim groups demanding the rebuilding of the Islamic shrine and by Hindu fundamentalist organisations celebrating its destruction.

Many Hindus believe the

Babri Mosque was built by Moghul invaders on top of a Hindu temple marking the birthplace of their warrior-king Lord Ram.

In the town of Madurai in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, Muslim demonstrators set fire to a bus but their call for a protest strike went largely unheeded, PTI said.

The news agency said two demonstrators were arrested for setting the bus alight while another 40 were briefly detained for trying to stop traffic.

Some 125 Muslim protesters were arrested in the Tamil Nadu capital Madras during a demonstration called to demand an apology from the central government for not preventing the destruction of the shrine, PTI said.

In Bombay, capital of the western state of Maharashtra, police were on "red alert" to prevent violence during the anniversary.

More than 1,000 people died in Hindu-Muslim rioting in Bombay following the razing of the mosque.

In the Maharashtra Assembly, which has shifted from Bombay to the town of Nagpur for its winter session, lawmakers traded insults and exchanged blows after opposition MPs staged a protest against the destruction of the mosque.

Tempers flared as three

MPs from Maharashtra's ruling Hindu alliance objected to the display of the banners and tried to snatch them away while shouting slogans in support of the destruction of the mosque.

At one point, opposition MPs and legislators from the state's ruling Shiv Sena (Army of Shivaji) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) exchanged insults and blows, witnesses said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Manohar Joshi of the Shiv Sena accused the opposition of trying to create Hindu-Muslim tensions and said "those who love the Babri Mosque have no right to live in India."

"The Babri Mosque was a symbol of foreign domination and oppression, which we have wiped out," he said to cheers by deputies from his ruling coalition.

In New Delhi, members of left-wing opposition parties in the upper house of parliament, the Rajya Sabha, staged a protest walkout after failing to receive permission from the speaker to debate the razing of the Babri Mosque.

In the lower house, the Lok Sabha, Somnath Chatterjee, a Communist Party deputy, called for the anniversary to be observed as a "day of national mourning."

He also suggested that the Supreme Court decide whether an Islamic shrine or a Hindu temple stand on the disputed site.

Duchess of York's jewels recovered

NEW YORK (R) — British Airways reported from London Wednesday that stolen jewelry given to Britain's Duchess of York by her mother-in-law, Queen Elizabeth, has been recovered here.

The airline credited its security personnel and the FBI with the recovery of a diamond necklace and bracelet, unofficially valued at \$385,000 (£250,000), which were missing from a suitcase brought back from New York Monday by an assistant of the duchess, the former Sarah Ferguson.

The airline said the jewels were diverted before they reached the plane by a leader for Hudson General Handling Company, which handles baggage for British Airways at John F. Kennedy Airport here.

The FBI recovered the necklace from the home of Gilbert Terrero, 19, in the Queens Borough of New York City and the bracelet was discovered in a locker in the British Airways terminal, the airline said.

Mr. Terrero was to be formally charged Wednesday, the airline said.

The FBI refused to comment pending the release of a statement later.

The jewelry was a gift from the queen when her son Prince Andrew married the Miss Ferguson in 1986. She was given the title of Duchess of York but remained better known as Fergie.

The red-haired 36-year-old has been treated like an outcast since bringing shame on the royal family in 1992, shortly after her marriage to Prince Andrew broke down.

Taiwan premier conciliatory to China

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan Premier Lien Chan sounded a conciliatory note towards China Wednesday, saying the island would help Beijing realise its free market reforms.

Taiwanese investments would assist China in reforming its state-owned enterprises and cutting its tariff barriers by 30 per cent as it prepares to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Central News Agency quoted Mr. Lien as saying.

"None of these (reforms) does not need foreign investment and foreign trade... We are willing to join the WTO with it (China) and realise these plans," the semi-official agency quoted Lien as telling a seminar for government officials.

Until now Taiwan has said it may try to leapfrog China in joining the WTO, a tactic that Beijing opposes.

Mr. Lien's remarks were the most conciliatory towards China since a parliamentary election Saturday showed an increasing number of voters supporting candidates wanting to repair strained ties with this island's old rival.

The ruling Nationalist Party saw its representation slashed to 51.8 per cent of the Legislative Yuan's seats, prompting many analysts to say it should heed the electorate's message to improve relations with the mainland.

Some 25,000 Taiwanese businesses operate in China with investment totalling between \$10 billion and \$20 billion. But trade and investment with the main-

land have slumped recently as ties soured.

China, which has viewed Taiwan as a renegade province since the end of a civil war in 1949, shut the door on bilateral talks after Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui visited the United States in June. Beijing saw the visit as a move to promote independence.

"We need a channel for negotiations... We have to walk on the way towards negotiations," Mr. Lien said.

China conducted two series of missile tests in the sea north of Taiwan in July and August following Mr. Lee's U.S. visit, shaking business confidence and sending financial markets tumbling.

4 reportedly die in China clashes

HONG KONG (R) — The death toll from rioting in a south Chinese boom town rose to four, with victims complaining hospitals were refusing to operate on those who could not pay, Hong Kong newspapers said Wednesday.

Victims told Hong Kong reporters police fired automatic weapons to quell clashes between villagers and migrant workers in the Shenzhen special economic zone Sunday.

Two fatalities were reported immediately. By Wednesday, the death toll had risen to four. At least 100 people were injured, 10 of them seriously.

One man was beaten to death and two, including a 17-year-old bystander, were shot dead, Chinese dailies said.

The fourth fatality was identified as a policeman.

The Hong Kong-based Oriental Daily News said one hospital was demanding payments of about 60,000 yuan (\$6,900) to treat patients.

"More injured workers could die in coming days because the construction company they worked for was unable to raise the money," the Oriental Daily News said.

Telephone calls to the Longguan District Number Two People's Hospital went unanswered. Shenzhen municipal officials were also not available for comment.

Migrant workers complained another hospital declined to provide food and water to their injured colleagues, and when they brought food to the hospital, they were turned away, the daily reported.

The clash started when a villager drove a motorcycle

over a freshly tarred road laid by migrant workers, most of them from China's impoverished southeast, and quickly escalated into a full-scale brawl, with rioters ransacking the local Communist Party headquarters.

Police counter-attacked with a large force of anti-riot officers, including some who opened fire with automatic weapons, it added.

The migrant workers, imported to build a new motorway from Shenzhen, a showcase of China's market reforms, came mostly from Hunan and Hubei, poor provinces that are the source of large numbers of China's 30 million floating job chasers.

"In the eyes of the police, we are worse than dogs," one migrant worker, from Hunan province, told the Oriental Daily News.



Dozens of people from a South Korean dissident group stage a protest in front of the Seoul prosecutor's office demanding the arrest of all the heads of big business conglomerates who are alleged to have given bribes to ex-President Roh Tae-Woo during his term. Mr. Roh has been detained and indicted on charges of accepting millions of dollars from business tycoons (Reuters)

Trial date set for S.Korea's Roh

SEOUL (R) — The bribery trials of former President Roh Tae-Woo and seven of South Korea's top business executives will start this month, a court official said Wednesday.

The official at the Seoul District Criminal Court said judges had made an initial decision to open the proceedings on Dec. 18.

In addition to seven chairmen of business conglomerates, another seven people charged in connection with a \$654 million slush fund that Mr. Roh confessed to amassing in office would also go on trial, he said.

It was not clear if the trials would be held separately or together.

Mr. Roh was indicted Tuesday on charges of taking \$369 million in bribes from 35 business groups during his 1988-93 term. He was arrested and detained on Nov. 16.

Meanwhile, the ruling party formally changed its name to distance itself from the disgraced Roh and his predecessor Chun Doo Hwan, who has been arrested on separate charges of military rebellion for leading a 1979 coup.

Mr. Chun was reported not to have eaten any solids since his weekend detention.

The Democratic Liberal Party will now be known as the New Korea Party, a party statement said.

A party Central Executive Council meeting Wednesday picked the new title. By switching names the party showed its "rebirth as a leading player in the nation's drive for reform", the statement said.

"We've changed the name to accept the people's aspirations for the party to introduce pure politics by cleansing the wrong practices of the past, such as the collusion between business and politics," it said.

The party was founded in 1990 through a merger of former President Roh Tae-Woo's Democratic Justice Party and two opposition groups, one led by President Kim Young-Sam.

Both former presidents still have loyal supporters within the ruling camp.

Also Wednesday the ruling party put the final touches to legislation ordered by President Kim to punish Mr. Chun and Mr.

Roh for their roles in the coup and a massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators in May 1980 in Kwangju.

Almost 200 people were killed, by official count, when elite paratroopers stormed Kwangju to put down a citizens' revolt. Residents say thousands may have perished.

The bill that suspends a 15-year statute of limitations for violating the constitution — opening the way to prosecution of the two ex-presidents — will be sent to parliament soon, a party spokesman said.

Mr. Chun was reported to be on a liquid diet in his cell at Anyang Prison on the outskirts of Seoul.

A Justice Ministry official said he had not eaten since his arrest last Sunday, possibly in protest against his detention.

"He has not been eating any of his meals, but only drinking milk and barley tea," the spokesman told Reuters. "News reports say he is not eating in defiance at his arrest, but we don't know for sure. He gives no reason."

Angolan leader invites rival for talks

LUANDA (R) — Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos said Wednesday he had invited veteran guerrilla leader Jonas Savimbi for talks on their faltering peace process.

Mr. Savimbi's UNITA rebel movement said Monday it had stopped disarming its troops because of a fresh government offensive which it said had forced it to look again at the peace accord signed last year after nearly 20 years of civil war.

"I have invited Jonas Savimbi to meet me in Angola on Dec. 20, 1995 when I come back from the west," Mr. Dos Santos said before starting a five-day official visit to the United States at the invitation of President Bill Clinton.

Asked about reports that UNITA had asked for a revision of the Lusaka Accord after renewed fighting, Mr. Dos Santos said:

"We don't need to renegotiate the Lusaka Protocol. You had the worst situation during the war, so we can solve this problem."

He said the people of Angola wanted peace and would not return to war.

Mr. Dos Santos implicitly acknowledged Tuesday that the peace agreement could be threatened. He told his advisory council he would have liked to announce that the peace process had reached an "irreversible point" but he could not because of "actual circumstances".

On Wednesday, Mr. Dos Santos did not say where he would meet Mr. Savimbi. It would be his first meeting on Angolan soil since the UNITA leader rejected the 1992 election result and returned to war after a brief period of peace. The two leaders have met three times since the signing of the peace accord.

Both UNITA and the government have accused each other of frequent violations of the peace accord signed in Lusaka. But for the first time, confirmation that government troops had been on the offensive came Monday from a Joint Peace Commission monitoring implementation of the accord.

The commission requested "an immediate halt" to the government offensive and has sent a mission to the northern Zaire province to assess the situation.

UNITA said government troops had occupied several areas of the country in violation of the accord. Several thousand U.N. peacekeepers are helping underpin the fragile peace in Angola. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed and millions displaced by the war which erupted on independence from Portugal in 1975.

Queen, Major discusses Diana's future role

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major met Queen Elizabeth Tuesday to work out the future role of Princess Diana, who is locked in battle with Buckingham Palace over what to do with her life.

Princess Diana said in a television interview last month she wanted to be a roving "goodwill ambassador" for Britain after the acrimonious collapse of her marriage to Prince Charles.

Mr. Major is under pressure from colleagues and members of parliament, who say Princess Diana's lack of diplomatic training rules her out of any ambassadorial role.

Sir Anthony Parsons, former British ambassador to the United Nations, said there was no doubt Princess Diana should have some role, but not as a roving ambassador.

government must find a way of satisfying Princess Diana's demands for a more concrete public role to help end a public spat between her and Prince Charles.

But several politicians have cast doubt on whether she could handle the responsibility.

"It is amazing the idea is being taken seriously," David Howell, chairman of parliament's Foreign Affairs Select Committee, told the Times newspaper in an interview published Wednesday.

Sir Anthony Parsons, former British ambassador to the United Nations, said there was no doubt Princess Diana should have some role, but not as a roving ambassador.

"It simply does not make sense and would not work," he told the Times.

Last month Princess Diana won praise for a delicate charity mission to

Argentina, which Britain fought in 1982 over the disputed Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic.

"Her recent strategic successes, coupled with the ineluctable fact that she is mother of an heir to the throne, means no one would dare to marginalise her," the paper said.

Public opinion polls show most Britons back Princess Diana.

But not everyone is on her side. Dame Jill Knight, deputy head of a committee of influential conservative MPs, openly cast doubt on Princess Diana's ability to work as a roving ambassador.

"It really is not enough just to smile at people and pat them on the head," she told reporters.

"I am quite sure she has a talent to comfort people and make them feel better, but if you are going to be a diplomat, you have got to have many years of experience."

Japanese party denies Nanjing massacre

TOKYO (AFP) — A right-wing Japanese political party said Wednesday it planned to place a full-page advertisement in the New York Times this week, arguing that the Nanjing massacre did not take place.

The Youth Liberal Party, which claims 100,000 members, said it would also argue that the Japanese government and military played no role in recruiting "comfort women" to have sex with Japanese soldiers during the war.

And with its publication Thursday marking the 54th anniversary of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, the group said the advertisement would also deny that the action was a premeditated "sneak" attack.

"We are increasingly concerned about the recent trend of our government heading to foreign pressure, admitting wartime aggression and repeatedly apologising for it," an official said. "The Japanese have lost their pride."

The party itself was founded last year and is headed by Isao Nakamura, chairman of Higashi Nihon House Co. Ltd., a Morioka-based housing company listed on the second section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

A draft of the advertisement said the group hoped to "clear a number of misunderstandings prevalent in many countries towards Japan."

On the massacre in China, "it is widely and erroneously believed by many in and outside that the Japanese troops killed some 300,000 unarmed civilians after the fall of Nanjing," the draft said.

"Scholarly works by many conscientious and well-known Japanese historians in the last few decades testify that the so-called 'Nanjing massacre' did not take place."

Chinese claims of 300,000 people being killed in Nanjing "lacked objectivity" and were "full of fabrications," the party said.

As for Korean and other Asian women forced to have sex with Japanese troops, they were "enticed by enterprising dealers by promises of a high income."

"The Japanese government and military certainly played no role in the recruitment or in the management of the facilities which employed 'comfort women'," it said, describing recent allegations as "grossly distorted or exaggerated."

Japan's failure to inform the U.S. government of its intention to enter into hostilities before the attack on Pearl Harbor was meanwhile the result of "Total mismanagement and a lapse of discipline on the part of our embassy."

Takayoshi Matsuo, a history professor at Kyoto University, said the arguments were "all against the historical facts" and criticised the group.

"Regardless of the number of the victims, the Nanjing massacre did take place," Prof. Matsuo said. "Whether it was a surprise or not, it's a fact that Japan started the war with the United States."

"It's a shame to publicise the arguments which are not acceptable even in Japan. It could make foreign people more wary of Japan," he said.

A Japanese advertising agent for the New York Times confirmed that the full-page advertisement would be placed in Thursday's edition of the newspaper, at a cost of \$60,000.

Higashi Nihon House has 56 branches and 19 sales offices across Japan.

Donation of cans puts man in soup

AUSTIN, Texas (R) — Tim Cummins gave two cans of soup to a charity to help the hungry and remembered, too late, that one of them contained family jewels worth thousands of dollars. When he realised his error, Mr. Cummins offered a \$2,500 reward for the jewels, which the Campbell Soup Company matched. "He was doing good for humanity, bless his heart," said Eileen Oldag, a spokesperson for the Caritas charity, as workers searched through bags of donated food. Campbell spokeswoman Lisa Dougherty said the firm matched the reward as a goodwill gesture. Mr. Cummins said he put the jewels in the can with other soup cans in his pantry, to foil burglars.

Pavarotti dismisses talk his voice is fading

VANCOUVER (R) — The 60-year-old opera maestro Luciano Pavarotti has dismissed talk that his voice is fading after he suffered vocal problems in New York. Pavarotti canceled a performance, withdrew half-way through another and missed high notes as he sang in Doozetti's Daughter Of The Regiment at New York's Metropolitan Opera last month. The Italian tenor acknowledged problems but said his last two New York performances showed he was still on top. "The last two performances were brilliant. The last two performances equalised the performance of 20 years ago," he told reporters before an appearance in Vancouver.

Basinger's Boxing Helena settlement denied

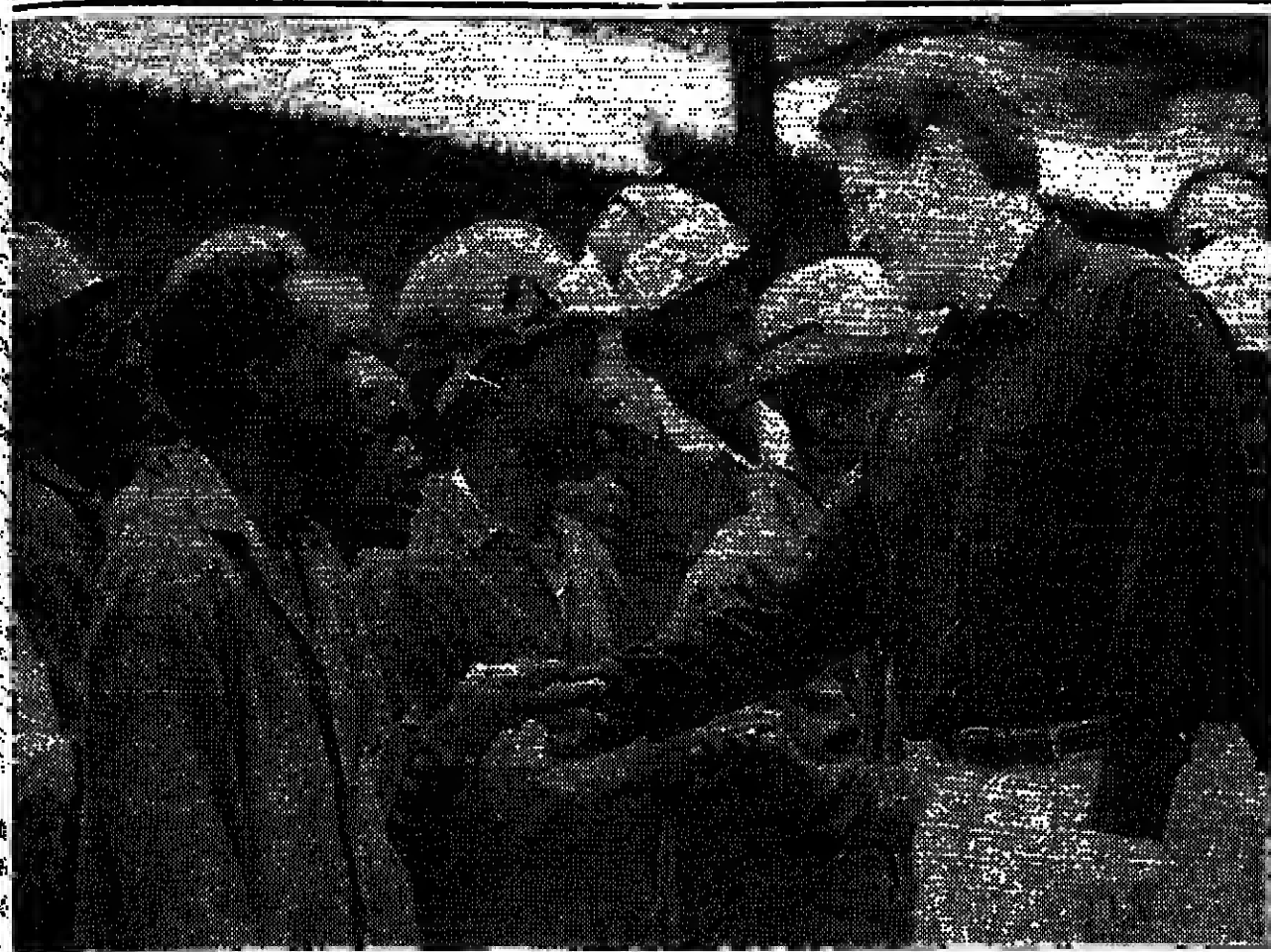
LOS ANGELES (R) — A representative for Kim Basinger denied the actress had settled a long-running lawsuit involving her withdrawal from the movie Boxing Helena. An attorney for Main Line Pictures, the Hollywood production company that sued Basinger for breach of contract, had said Monday a settlement had been reached. However she backed away from that comment. "There has been no settlement," a statement from Basinger's publicist said. "There is a court-imposed compromise that has been presented, but Kim was and is prepared to go back to court if that's what is required."

Germany tops world drinking league

BERLIN (R) — Germans outdrank the rest of the world last year, with the average citizen consuming 139.6 litres of beer, researchers said. Germans drank the equal of 11.4 litres of pure alcohol in 1994, the German Addiction Centre said. They cut back their pure alcohol consumption by 0.1 litres in 1994 but still beat heavyweights France and Australia.

Ho Chi Minh City discourages calendars

HANOI (R) — Authorities in southern Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City have instructed government offices and state firms not to print calendars or greeting cards to usher in the year of the rat, which begins next February. A circular in official media said the measure was taken as part of state efforts to save money and eliminate waste. Cards and calendars are routinely exchanged in Vietnam along with other gifts on Jan. 1 and at the Tet Lunar New Year festival which is due to be celebrated in mid-February.



U.S. Vice-President Al Gore meets workers as he visits a U.S.-funded trade skills training project in this township south west of Johannesburg. The project was formed in 1994 and since then more than 300 South African have been trained as tradesmen at the project. Mr. Gore was on a two-day visit to South Africa (Reuters)

Gore praises Botswana's wildlife protection

GABORONE (R) — U.S. Vice-President Al Gore briefly visited Botswana Wednesday, praising President Ketumile Masire for his protection of wildlife and pledging to help the region's economic integration.

"As someone who believes deeply in protecting the environment, I have long known of the world-wide reputation of Botswana for environmental protection and for the great natural beauty of this country," Mr. Gore told reporters after meeting Mr. Masire and Kaire Mbenende, executive secretary of the Southern African Development Community (sadc).

Mr. Gore spent less than three hours in Botswana on his way from Pretoria to Cape Town in South Africa where he was expected to wrap up a two-day southern African visit later Wednesday.

He said Botswana's government had transformed the country into "an exemplary environmental model."

"Thanks to Botswana's determination and charisma, the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park have

emerged as hallmarks of bio-diversity and respect for nature," Mr. Gore said.

Mr. Masire has been criticised for plans to pump water from the Okavango Delta to supply nearby diamond mining operations. The plans have been at least temporarily suspended.

Mr. Gore signed a memorandum of understanding with Mr. Mbenende in which the U.S. agreed to provide technical advice on SADC's plans to create a free trade zone.

The U.S. also agreed to provide advice on "the benefits to be derived from expanded customs union... cross-border effects of unilateral liberalisation by sector" and the establishment of an electronic information network, among other things.

SADC which groups 12 countries in the region, has its headquarters in Gaborone.

Mr. Masire told reporters that his talks with Mr. Gore had included discussion of bilateral relations such as agriculture, education, commerce, industry and natural resources.

On Tuesday, Mr. Gore and his South African counter-

part, Thabo Mbeki opened the first full meeting of a cabinet-level committee aimed at strengthening ties between their countries.

The U.S.-South Africa Binational Commission, established in March and co-chaired by Mr. Gore and Mr. Mbeki, created a formal working partnership between South Africa and the United States.

Only Russia and Egypt have similar binational commissions with the United States.

"We in the United States feel we have a great deal to learn from the new South Africa," Mr. Gore said at the start of Tuesday's meeting.

Mr. Mbeki, one of two deputy presidents in Nelson Mandela's multiparty government, said issues of common concern included ending racism, sexism and poverty, and the exchange of information in science and technology.

"We, like yourselves, approach the relationship between our two countries and people not as one between benefactor and beneficiary, but as co-participants in the common effort to create a better life

for all," Mr. Mbeki said.

Mr. Gore later met for about 20 minutes with Mr. Mandela, South Africa's first black president, for what he described as "very productive, informed" talks on "all the challenges that are facing the two countries."

The only specific issue either would confirm discussing was Nigeria, which has come under international condemnation for human rights abuses including the executions of nine political activists. Mr. Mandela is leading a call for an oil embargo that would require support from the United States, which imports Nigerian oil.

"Nigeria is a problem for us," is all Mr. Mandela would say on the subject.

Mr. Gore arrived in South Africa Monday night with his wife Tipper, Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

Peace Corps Director Mark Gearan also accompanied Mr. Gore. The United States and South Africa are preparing an agreement that would bring the first U.S. Peace Corps volunteers to South Africa.

Yeltsin calls in state security boss ahead of poll

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin, reflecting Kremlin alarm at growing violence ahead of the Dec. 17 election, called in the head of state security Wednesday and discussed the situation in Chechnya and how to tackle terrorism.

Mr. Yeltsin met Mikhail Barsukov, director of the Federal Security Service (FSB), at a sanatorium where he is recovering from a mild heart attack, after a mystery explosion in the parliamentary building and heightened violence in Chechnya.

"They discussed in detail the situation in the country on the eve of elections and also talked about ways of regulating the conflict in the Chechen Republic," his press service said.

A statement said Mr. Barsukov had given a report on moves to strengthen state security "in the struggle against terrorism which has taken on recently a threatening dimension."

Fears of violence disrupting the election to the State Duma (lower house) grew after Tuesday's explosion in the parliament office of

right-wing deputy Nikolai Lysenko. No-one was hurt.

Concern was also heightened by a car bomb which killed at least five people in the Chechen capital Grozny Monday.

Ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy meanwhile injected life into a sluggish election campaign with a virulent attack on Mr. Yeltsin, ridiculing him as an ailing puppet.

"Yeltsin today is like (late Communist leader Leonid) Brezhnev at the end of 1982. He's a puppet. They bring him in and bring him out," Mr. Zhirinovskiy declared in a one-man party political broadcast screened on morning state television.

The sharp, personal attack on Mr. Yeltsin represented a new tack by the volatile Zhirinovskiy, reflecting a bid to widen his party's appeal and boost his mediocre showing in opinion polls.

His Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) scored heavily in the 1993 election, drawing on a huge protest vote among people disenfranchised by market reforms.

But he now faces stiff

competition for the same constituency from the nationalist Congress of Russian Communities (KRO) and the Communists, seen as the election front-runners.

Other parties expected to cross the five per cent threshold which will ensure them a place in the new 450-seat Duma include Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's Our Home Is Russia bloc and the main reform party, Yabloko.

The rising crime wave and the war in Chechnya figure prominently in political broadcasts by the 43 parties seeking the votes of the 105 million-strong electorate.

Some security officials in the Duma have expressed fears that separatist rebels in Chechnya could step up guerrilla activities, even inside Russia proper, and mar the Russian poll.

But Moscow has not indicated whether it will take any special measures to crack down on the rebels.

Mr. Lysenko, the 34-year-old leader of the right-wing National Republican Party, Wednesday sought to reap maximum capital from the

bomb blast which wrecked his office in the Duma.

He said the blast showed that "the character of political terrorism in Russia has taken on an unprecedented scale."

A police investigation is under way. There has been no official statement yet on what caused the blast.

Mr. Lysenko, whose party advocates curbing the rights of certain ethnic groups from the Caucasus and Central Asia, said he believed the bomb had been brought in to the Duma by Turkish workers. "It can't be ruled out that the Turkish Special Forces are behind this action," he told reporters.

He dismissed as "political vomit" charges by some deputies that he had engineered the attack to win pre-election publicity.

Mr. Yeltsin meanwhile signed a law on how the upper house would be formed. By so doing he resolved a row between the Duma and the Federation Council which had threatened to leave Russia without an upper chamber.

Austria's Schuessel won't rule out far-right deal

VIENNA (R) — Less than two weeks before an early general election, Austrian conservative party leader Wolfgang Schuessel has refused to rule out a coalition with the far-right, saying the Freedom Party had to be faced, not ignored.

Despite repeated calls from his estranged Social Democrat (SPOE) coalition partners to forswear an alliance with Joerg Haider's nationalists, the People's Party (OEVP) vice channel-

or has left his options open but said he hoped to win over disgruntled Freedom Party voters.

"I cannot give you a guarantee that I will form a coalition with the SPOE either," said Mr. Schuessel, who appeared in a late Tuesday evening televised debate with his former coalition partner, SPOE Chancellor Franz Vranitzky.

Mr. Schuessel and Mr. Vranitzky are running neck-and-neck as the top two contenders in the Dec. 17

general election, with about 31 and 29 per cent of voter support respectively.

"But I plan to win Freedom Party voters over to my camp instead of alienating them," he said.

About one million Austrians, or 22.5 per cent of voters, cast their ballot for the Freedom Party in last October's scheduled general elections, giving them the largest far-right parliamentary representation in Europe.

The most recent opinion

polls show Mr. Haider's party has about 25 per cent popular backing.

Mr. Vranitzky has said he would never ally with the anti-immigration rightists, and accused Mr. Schuessel of breaking up the 11-month-old SPOE-OEVP coalition with a Freedom Party alliance in mind.

The coalition collapsed in October over a bitter budget wrangle and ways to trim a burgeoning deficit.

Sri Lanka offers amnesty to Tigers, talks to end bloodshed

COLOMBO (AFP) — President Chandrika Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka offered an amnesty to Tamil Tiger guerrillas Wednesday but vowed to crush those opposing talks aimed at ending the country's protracted ethnic war.

In an address to the nation marking the army's capture of the northern town of Jaffna from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Mrs. Kumaratunga said the conflict could be resolved only through dialogue.

"We see a dawn of a new era," Mrs. Kumaratunga said in her speech telecast live from her colonial-style, sea-front office. "I invite all members of the LTTE to lay down arms and end violence. The government will offer you an amnesty."

Mrs. Kumaratunga, a member of the majority Sinhalese community, said the minority Tamils supported her political efforts to end the fighting, which was reignited by the LTTE's withdrawal from peace talks

in April.

"If there is any group or person who does not wish to enter into dialogue, then I must mention that our forces stand fully prepared to face all further military challenges that may arise," she said.

Her hard-hitting speech came as the military recovered the bodies of 23 policemen killed by the Tigers in a daring suicide attack and an ambush in the east of the island late Tuesday.

She made no reference to the rebel raid but said: "We still have a long way to go in our battle to end the war and to win a durable peace. Let us not crow over our military victory."

The top army field commander, Major-General Rohan Daluwatte, said the battle against the LTTE was not over. "We have a little more to do before we can wipe out these barbaric terrorists and bring peace."

Tamil sources said the stunning defeat in Jaffna would infuriate LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabh-

karan and provoke more vicious attacks against the military as well as civilian targets.

Clandestine Tigers' radio acknowledged the loss of Jaffna but said they launched a massive recruitment drive to boost rebel ranks in a bid to retake the town, regarded as the fountainhead of Tamil separatism in the country.

Mrs. Kumaratunga described the battle for Jaffna begun on Oct. 17 as a war against "terrorism, separatism and racism of the LTTE" and said Tamils no longer need fear the guerrillas who ruled Jaffna with an iron fist since 1990.

"We have re-conquered the right of all people to live in peace and unity... Our struggle was to prevent the division of our land," said Mrs. Kumaratunga.

She urged thousands of Tamil civilians who fled the fighting to return to their homes in Jaffna and promised to restore civil administration and rebuild the battle-scarred region.

There was no immediate reaction from the LTTE to Mrs. Kumaratunga's offer, but Tiger supremo Prabhakaran has already ruled out negotiations as long as the army remains in Jaffna.

Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte, who led the army drive against the LTTE, ceremonially informed Mrs. Kumaratunga Wednesday that the "war for peace" in Jaffna had been concluded successfully.

"Your excellency's rule and authority has been firmly re-established in the city of Yapa Patana (Jaffna) and its surrounding areas, freeing them from and defeating the terrorists who are enemies of peace," Mr. Ratwatte said.

Military figures indicate at least 508 security personnel and an estimated 1,925 rebels were killed in the Jaffna offensive which began on Oct. 17 with the deployment of some 15,000 soldiers.

Italian court confirms dismissal of justice minister

ROME (AFP) — Italy's Constitutional Court Wednesday rejected an appeal by former Justice Minister Filippo Mancuso against his dismissal.

Mr. Mancuso was fired in October after a vote in the Italian Senate which said his sniping against magistrates investigating corruption among Italy's political and economic leaders was incompatible with his work as a government minister.

Mr. Mancuso, a lawyer with a renowned eye for detail, said he would not feel bound by the Senate move. He disputed methods of the upper house of parliament arguing a censure vote could only be proposed against the whole government and not just a single minister.

He then demanded his reinstatement to his post which had been taken over by Prime Minister Lamberto Dini.

However rejecting his appeal, the court stated that an individual censure motion against a minister could be proposed and approved by one or other of the Italian parliamentary chambers.

It said that if the minister concerned did not resign, it would be necessary for the Italian president to appoint his replacement.

Chretien unity plan sparks outrage in Canada's west

VANCOUVER (R) — Prime Minister Jean Chretien's proposals to appease Quebec separatists have worsened Canada's divisions, sparking outrage in the country's western provinces, political analysts say.

Mr. Chretien has given parliament three measures intended to strengthen national unity and meet Quebec's desire "for change." The package, which he hopes will be passed by Dec. 15, was introduced a month after separatists nearly won a sovereignty referendum in French-speaking Quebec on Oct. 30.

But his plan has brought to a boil simmering resentments in the west, particularly in the prosperous and growing provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, where residents have long complained they are denied a voice in a government dominated by easterners.

"The government has awakened the strong ire of western Canada... We may be heading to a complete break-up or a crisis of huge magnitude," said Philip Resnick, a political scientist at the University of British Columbia.

Mr. Chretien's proposals include a measure recognising Quebec as a distinct society and a measure for government decentralisation starting with worker training programmes.

While the "distinct society" measure drew some opposition, it was the third proposal that unleashed a storm of protest in British Columbia and Alberta. It gives a full right of veto to

Quebec and Ontario over changes in the constitution, while two other regions of the country — the small Atlantic provinces and the vast west — must share one apiece.

By Mr. Chretien's definition, the west includes the entire country west of Ontario — from the two prairie provinces that are geographically at the centre of Canada, through the Rocky Mountains of Alberta to British Columbia on the Pacific coast.

The Reform Party, which has roots in the west, was quick to condemn the plan. "The government is prepared to recognise Quebec as a distinct society. When does the federal government propose to recognise British Columbia as an important part of the process?" reform leader Preston Manning demanded.

People in British Columbia and Alberta, which have seen strong economic and population growth, argue they have little in common with residents of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the country's less affluent agricultural heartland.

"People here interpreted this as a great insult. To Ottawa, we're just one big lump out here," Mr. Resnick said.

Western commentators noted with anger that British Columbia, the country's third most populous province, did not even have a representative in Mr. Chretien's so-called unity committee of senior ministers that came up with the plan.

Critics say Mr. Chretien has shown an arrogant disregard for the west's economic might and political aspirations. "People in the west really see themselves as unique. There's a sense that the prime minister's proposals don't recognise that," pollster Angus Reid said.

Some warn that Mr. Chretien is fueling a nascent independence drive in the western provinces that parallels the separatist movement in Quebec.

"The prime minister has turned British Columbia anger at the central Canadian establishment into a smouldering... fire that will, sooner or later, burst into a flame of separatism every bit as threatening to our country as that in Quebec," Rafe Mair, a former politician and influential radio talk-show host, wrote in a Vancouver newspaper.

Mr. Reid said that while support among British Columbians for making the province an independent country measured only about 11 per cent in a poll just after the Quebec referendum, it is up from a historical average of less than five per cent.

"People here have given up on Ottawa. If the country is not prepared to take an entirely new look, it's time for us to go out on our own," said Stuart Gilbertson, a businessman who heads a pro-sovereignty political group in British Columbia.

Muslim elder protests at Filipino mobilisation

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (R) — A Muslim community leader has condemned government troop movements in the southern Philippines, saying Manila is wrong to prepare for war while supposedly negotiating peace with Muslim rebels.

"I regret that while there is still negotiation, military people are trying to mobilise, trying to show force," said Hadji Nuno, a widely respected figure in this southern city.

"There must be no mobilisation of the military... This is wrong," Mr. Nuno said in an interview.

Mr. Nuno, 83 and long an advocate of a peaceful solution to a decades-old Muslim campaign for autonomy, was commenting on Manila's deployment of thousands of extra troops on the main southern island of Mindanao.

The deployment, which Manila says is needed to

counter a threat by Muslim rebels and to secure key government development projects, is widely seen on the island as provocative.

Recent troop movements put 70,000 soldiers — more than half the total armed forces' strength — in the southern islands.

The results are particularly visible in the Cotabato region of Mindanao, a stronghold of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebel group.

The well-armed MILF, which took a group of South Korean engineers hostage last year in a dispute with the army, is very sensitive to army encroachment in an area it regards as its own.

A ceasefire in the south has held since 1986, apart from isolated clashes and attacks by groups branded as extremist by both the government and the main rebel movements, the MILF and the mainstream Moro National Liberation Front

(MNLF).

The government has held a series of peace talks with the MNLF which have so far failed to produce an autonomy settlement.

MILF Deputy Chairman Hadji Murad said Monday a new war in the south was inevitable if a just settlement was not reached.

"They have been negotiating for years, and nothing has happened," said Mr. Murad.

He says he commands more than 80,000 armed men but there was no way to confirm independently the MILF's claimed strength. The government puts it at less than 10,000.

Many in Mindanao have bitter memories of atrocities by both sides in the last war, which reached its height in the 1970s, and are alarmed at the current increase in tensions.

"We are tired of war... Everybody has lost important things in our

lives, including relatives," said Ali Macababang, a media affairs adviser to the regional government based in Cotabato.

Both Muslim and Christian residents say the impact of the last war is still felt, with many poor farmers now landless because of the fighting, afraid to return to ancestral homes.

"People are starving. They cannot go to their farms. They are either taxed or scared away," Mr. Macababang said. Both rebels and soldiers preyed on the poor, he said.

Muslims, once a majority in the south of the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Philippines, now form only about 40 per cent of the region's population of 20 million.

They say decades of discrimination by Manila and Christian migrants have left them strangers in their own homeland.

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Sliding down carnage road

THE CIVIL Defence Department has just released shocking statistics about road accidents in the country. These statistics tell a horrific story about dramatic increases in casualties not to mention the astronomical material losses resulting from road accidents. The statistics talk about 27,000 road-related fatalities or injuries in 1994, compared to nearly 18,000 in 1990. These alarming figures confirm that Jordan is experiencing an average of 13 per cent hike in traffic accidents annually, something that no country on earth should tolerate.

As for the material losses, the picture is extremely dismal. They constitute a huge drain on the national economy, with official statistics, estimating the bill for 1994 traffic accidents at a staggering JD 100 million.

In plain terms, these statistics suggest that all is not well with our national policy on traffic-related conditions, to say the least. As far as we can tell, the problem implies that the fault lies in both the drivers who do not seem to learn from past bitter experiences and with the concerned authorities whose applied policy on the crisis appears to be unsatisfactory at best.

In the first category, the operators of vehicles do not seem to be even willing to acquire acceptable driving habits despite of the thousands of fines that are being levied against violators every day. We seem to lack the proper safe driving culture that no amount of penalties alone would be able to develop. At a time when the Traffic Department seems to rely solely on punitive measures against some type of violators, for example, illegal parking and speeding culprits, to tackle the traffic situation, it appears to be still unaware or unconcerned about other aspects of driving habits that also take a heavy toll on people's lives and properties.

Enough has been written and said about the problem to elicit an adequate and timely response. But it seems that reading or hearing about the problem is not enough. Take for instance the suggestion, articulated in publications and in the electronic media quite often, to devise a new regime for street crossing especially when it comes to children and students. This and other suggestions have gone totally unheeded as we still see our children crossing streets on their way to school under the most hazardous conditions before the very eyes of our traffic police. And when it was proposed that Stop signs be more rigidly observed, that automobiles respect lanes, that cars spewing black smoke be removed from the roads until they properly repaired, that more traffic lights be deployed on major thoroughfares and avenues, to name only a few and the most obvious, we are always told that all these remedial actions are either too difficult to reinforce or they cost a lot of money.

We have now a simple and straight-forward answer to such indifferent attitudes and it lies in the shocking statistics that have just been released: It costs more lives and even more money if no adequate solutions we found to our increasing traffic woes. The ongoing neglect cannot be tolerated or accepted any longer because all of us are paying dearly for it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i said Wednesday that the failure of the opposition in the Egyptian parliamentary elections was clear from the results of the first round last week means failure of the elections themselves. The opposition, which had lived through very difficult circumstances for more than half a century in Egypt, could not have fallen so fast and disappeared from the political arena, said Tareq Masarweh. Indeed, should Egypt lack opposition, its people and government must create one, because the regime is in constant need of elements in parliament to offer advice, make complaints and help the regime follow a sound path, said the writer. The Americans, who are keen on retaining the present friendly regime in Cairo, have been critical of the elections results because the exclusion of the opposition means the regime is heading towards confrontation with opposition parties and instability in this sensitive region, according to the writer. He said it is wrong and totally unacceptable to see Egypt's parliament void of opposition and of representatives of the Copts, and it is wrong for the regime to listen only to the voice of the hypocrites.

COMMENTING ON the favourable statements towards peace in Tel Aviv and Syria, the daily Al Dustour said that the statements have created an opportune climate for the resumption of the peace negotiations between the two sides through the U.S. sponsor. The favourable statements have encouraged the Americans to send their envoy Dennis Ross once again to the region, according to observers who believe that the chance for peace between Damascus and Tel Aviv is now greater than at any time in the past, said the daily.

The View from Academia

Normalisation: What exactly is it?

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdounbeh

ONE OF the most frequently used, overused, ill-used and abused terms in our public discourse about the present and future relationship with Israel is the term "normalisation." Not only has it lost what is a potentially innocent, astute, potent and positive meaning, but it has also been, as a result of the aggressive persistence of those using it negatively, immensely distorted and blown out of proportion. In fact, it has recently been so dramatised and inflated that it has acquired not just deceptive and false implications, but also a very nasty, awesome and intimidating power. If the legitimate matters denoted by the concept of normalisation are to be understood, aired and debated fairly and fruitfully, the term must be deflated and cut down to its actual size.

The word used in Arabic to denote "normalisation" is *tatbi'*. *Tatbi'* is from the stem *taba'a*, and *taba'a* means, among other things, to "print," to "stamp," to "impress," to "endow one with a certain 'disposition' or 'nature,'" to "train," to "domesticate," to "desecrate," to "spread dirt" over something, etc. From this stem come many important words and concepts, such as printer, typewriter, natural disposition, tendency, propensity, constitution, nature, natural sciences and so on. Clearly, and as in the case of many other rich words in the language, some of the meanings it signifies are positive, some neutral and some negative.

Ultimately, what counts is not what the word etymologically and lexically denotes, but what we ourselves take it to mean. As we know, language is essentially signs; signs do not have a meaning inherent in them; meaning emerges as a result of usage. It may be that *tatbi'* is not the best word to use, but for all intents and purposes it is as good as any other word, if we use it responsibly and in good faith.

The first thing that comes to mind when one comes across the term *tatbi'* in connection with Israel, especially when and if one is able to divorce the term from the pejorative, distortive connotations it has recently acquired, is something like "naturalising" or "normalising" relations with it, relations which have not been natural and normal for a long time — due to specific reasons and circumstances which we all know. What this means is that the minute the reasons and causes which made relations between Arabs and Israel "unnatural" and "abnormal" are overcome and eliminated, such relations ought — naturally and normally — to be "naturalised" and "normalised." That is what I, fundamentally, understand normalisation (or *tatbi'*) to mean and that is exactly what it ought to mean. What do I want from Israel but the return of what I claim (reasonably) to be mine?

But this is not what the word has come to mean as used by many in our public and private discourse today. In fact, it has come to mean everything but natural and normal relations. Most of those who use the term, and they use it either shrewdly or ignorantly, use it to mean several things at once. *Tatbi'* means total openness and exposure on our part to Israeli society (especially to its "ills" and "vices"), total submission to Israeli will and whim, total surrender to it in war and peace, total subservience, total obedience, total slavery, total annihilation. *Tatbi'* means we will be brainwashed by Israel, we will lose our Arab-Islamic identity, we will melt as a culture; it means we will lose our aspirations, our ideals, our moral values, our virtues, our holiness. *Tatbi'* means that our extremely delicate and vulnerable (but also innocent, holy and virtuous) young men who divide their time between the library and the mosque will be seduced by the extremely vicious, conniving and fatally irresistible female Israeli tourists who have come not to see Petra or Jerash but for the sole purpose of laying traps for our poor young men, ensnaring them against their will, making love to them at high with us watching, and (of course) infecting them with AIDS. *Tatbi'* means

the Israelis will buy all of our lands and turn us into labourers working for them, will inundate our markets with their tomatoes and potatoes, with underwear made in their factories and with eggs from their chicken farms. *Tatbi'* means we will be soaked, washed, dried, folded and stored in Israeli closets; we will be volley balls, soccer balls and basket balls in the hands and feet of Israeli players; we will be mice, cats, etc. *Tatbi'* means this and 50 thousand other things.

I have quoted all of the above without using quotation marks from articles I have read, lectures I have attended and conversations I have heard.

Well, what can one say?

First of all, if this is what normalisation of relations with Israel means, I would be the first to oppose it. God forbid that we should lose our identity, our character and our virtue. Secondly, if our poor young men are so delicate, vulnerable and weak that they collapse totally in the face of a smile by a female Israeli tourist (assuming that Israeli tourists distribute smiles left and right and fall in love with the first Arab they see), does not this reflect somewhat badly on us? On our parents, teachers, educators, preachers, writers? If our young men's moral values are so tenuous, flimsy, fickle and weak, does not this mean (in part at least) that our parents and teachers have failed in their mission of bringing us up properly quite miserably? Should not we reconsider somewhat and take more seriously our roles as parents, educators, teachers and preachers? If a couple of female Israeli tourists (or 10 or a hundred) can make mashed potatoes out of our young men, what kind of a society are we?

Another question: Would someone please explain to me why (necessarily, that is) Israeli potatoes and tomatoes should be better than ours? Why the underwear they make better than the type we make? Why their eggs, engineers, doctors, teachers, university professors, politicians, preachers superior to ours?

My primary objection here, I should emphasise, is not to the concern over the implications of normalisation. No. People in our society have to be concerned. For one thing, we Arabs know very little about Israel, and do not know what to expect from it. Secondly, the long years of Arab-Israeli conflict have created many misconceptions, anxieties and fears; and much of them is still with us. Thirdly, Israel is more advanced in many spheres. Fourthly, the Israeli society is not typically Middle Eastern in its habits, customs and values; it is in many ways alien to the region. Fourthly, people generally find change uncomfortable, and normalisation presupposes certain changes. Fifthly, Israel is our next door neighbour and not the Taiwan or Japan. And so on and so forth.

What bothers me most about *tatbi'*, however, (as a reader, user and teacher of language) is first the irresponsible use and abuse of the term. As we learn in our basic reading, speaking and writing courses, we should be careful, cautious, precise and accurate when we use language. Even though words are free, we learn in the basic courses just mentioned to use language economically, clearly and precisely. Terms have to be clear in our own minds and precise in our own speeches and articles or books. In the many articles I have read and conversations I have heard, *tatbi'* as a term and concept is used too loosely, too ambiguously and imprecisely to make real sense. Its meaning is more suggested than stated, its implications are more assumed than articulated. A typical article or speech on "normalisation" is one which is based on sweeping generalisation (such as those listed above) which mean little upon a careful scrutiny ("we stand no chance in competing with Israel"), emotional language which has little logic and less sense ("we will be annihilated by Israel economically, politically and socially"), smiles and

metaphors which are too wild to be meaningful ("normalisation is the abyss in which we will fall and never come back") and ideas lumped together without order to discipline. How can people have an intelligent and beneficial debate, at a time when we need such a debate badly, when the very terms of the argument are not clear and precise? We urge those who use the word *tatbi'* to simply tell us what exactly they mean by it. They owe us that much.

There is, secondly, a difference between talking about the likely, potential, and possibly implications of normalisation and seeing such likely, potential and possible implications as inevitable. We must not present our assumptions, presumptions, anxieties, insecurities and fears, many of which may not materialise, as conclusions, absolute truths and hard, undeniable facts. Discourse about normalisation today reminds me very strongly of discourse about co-education (ikhtilat) at our colleges and universities in the seventies. The terms of the argument are more or less the same. Opponents of ikhtilat theo (who oppose normalisation today) introduced it to us as the vice of all vices, the sin of all sins, the plague and the AIDS which will bring our society down. The opponents of co-education were heroes who were applauded and the proponents were villains who were mocked and derided. Our society responded a little, though largely emotionally, then got bored with the whole thing. Today, we have co-educational colleges and universities which are working perfectly, and the anxieties and fears of the opponents of ikhtilat are remembered either as follies or jokes which we laugh at. The moral environment at our colleges and universities is no better or worse than the environment at our homes and in our neighbourhood. Ultimately, society does not relish, like or listen to those who have little faith in it. We are not cockroaches but tough members of the human species, big boys and girls who can live up to the challenge.

Having said that, however, I would insist that it is both interesting and important to raise questions about the potential impact (moral, cultural, economic, etc) of Israeli tourists on our society, about what it means to have full relations with Israel, about why Israeli potatoes, tomatoes and eggs might be superior to ours, about why their merchandise is better than ours, about why their engineers may be more qualified than ours. This is where the "opposition" in our society can play a constructive role. This is also where our unions and professional associations can help. The Engineers Association can, for instance, enlighten us as to whether the Israeli engineers are in fact better and more qualified than our engineers, and why? They can advise us on how to deal with this challenge, if it is a real challenge as we have been assuming. But let whatever argument there is about normalisation (pro or con) be serious, well-presented, precise and meaningful. We are sick and tired of the hocus-focus and of the unnecessary phobia and paranoia.

Let's have faith in ourselves and let's view matters correctly. Let's keep in mind when we debate normalisation, what normalisation is and what it is not. It is not total submission to Israel, not unqualified openness to it, not marriage with it, not a hot honeymoon on the beaches of the Mediterranean. It is ultimately a relationship, like relationships with any other foreign country with which we have good diplomatic ties (say Cyprus, Greece or Britain), based on one principle and one principle only: mutual interest, mutual need. When full peace is established (with Jordan, the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon), I am not required to love Israel, to sacrifice my dreams, my beliefs and ideals. Love is irrelevant; it has nothing to do with the matter. If I am sure of myself (my individual and cultural self), if I have a healthy attitude and a sound upbringing, I am what I am, before and after normalisation.

Why Israeli settlements preclude peace

By Leah Green

EARLY THIS spring, I led a 14-member international delegation of citizen diplomats into the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We lived with Palestinian families in the small West Bank village of Bourin for 12 days, working with them on an environmental project. As director of the Middle East Citizen Diplomacy Project for the Earthstewards Network, it was my eighth such delegation in recent years.

The village of Bourin exemplifies the explosive situation that exists between Israel's recent settlers and the native Palestinians living in the West Bank. In Bourin, 1,500 people live sandwiched on their land between the 60 or so Israeli families living on two neighbouring settlements — Yitzhar and Bracha. While the Palestinians and the Israelis live in close proximity to one another, their relations are anything but neighbourly.

Both Israeli settlements were built on land taken from Palestinian families in the 1980s. Yitzhar was recently enlarged and Bracha is now preparing to confiscate more of Bourin's land.

Thus, Bourin villagers have been hard at work, preparing to plant the targeted area in hopes of securing it (fallow land is easier to confiscate). Bracha's settlers have shot at the Palestinian crew from a distance in the past, and last month they attacked. One of my friends was hospitalized with head injuries sustained from the butt of a settler's gun.

But it's the settlement of Yitzhar that presents the greatest ongoing challenge for Bourin. Yitzhar is home to an Israeli Knesset member from the Moleket (Homeland) Party. Moleket's platform promotes "transfer" as a solution to the West Bank land war. They believe that Israel should forcibly move West Bank Palestinians to other Arab countries. Transfer is a polite term for ethnic cleansing.

Although it's common to find settlers throughout the West Bank with that ideology, Yitzhar has a reputation as an extremist stronghold. I had the opportunity to meet and talk with settlers from Yitzhar during our March project. Our work site — the Bourin Secondary School — bordered

their main road.

Our group of American, Israeli and British citizen diplomats arrived in Bourin and convened at the school on a warm spring day, but our good spirits were immediately damped. We learned that two children from the village were beaten by settlers outside the school just before we arrived. The teachers stressed that settler violence was almost a daily occurrence.

They pointed out bullet holes in the walls and cabinets in the room where we were meeting. The windows along the western side of the school are permanently shuttered because the settlers drive along that side of the school. And an open window is an "invitation" for a bullet.

We saw threatening drawings and slogans on each of the classroom doors. On one door, "Kill the Arabs" appeared beside a drawing of a settler pointing his gun at a terrified Palestinian. Another door bore the drawing of a fist clutching a knife with a Jewish Star of David on it. Next to it was a drawing of Abraham's tomb in Hebron, where an extremist Jewish settler massacred 29 Palestinians last year while they prayed in their mosque. The meaning was clear: "Watch out, this could happen to you."

We saw photos of the school from April 1994, after the settlers tried to burn it down. Four of the rooms had been completely destroyed. The stories continued. We began our work the following morning with apprehension. Some of us wanted to visit Yitzhar with the hope of easing some of the tension. But the settlers came to us first, their M-16s dangling awkwardly from shoulder straps. They seemed surprised to discover two Jews in our group. One of the investigating settlers told our Israeli member, Jamie, that the people of Bourin must leave because God gave this land to the Jews. "It says so in the Torah," he said. "The Palestinians in Bourin are like animals trespassing on private Jewish property," he said. "They must return to the Arab countries that they came from." (This line was particularly hard to accept because Bourin is a Roman village and some families can trace their roots back more than 500 years.) It's

clear they are prepared to drive out the Palestinians by any means necessary if daily harassment doesn't do the job. Towards the end of the conversation, Jamie asked the settler, "What kind of a human being are you to justify this behaviour toward a fellow human being?" Without dropping a beat, the settler replied, "I'm not a human being, I'm a Jew."

We spoke with many Israeli soldiers who patrolled the road to Yitzhar continuously day and night. We showed them the photos of the burned school and asked why no Israeli authorities ever came to investigate the incidents, which had all been reported to the Israeli police. We received various answers, depending on the personal beliefs of the soldiers we were talking to. Everything from "If it were up to me the settlers would be gone tomorrow" to "Well, you have to understand that this is a large administrative area, and it takes time to investigate all of these charges." The only complaint we heard from the Israelis about the villagers — apart from their stubborn residency — was that sometimes the kids threw stones at the settlers' school buses.

While the conflict simmered around us, we managed to complete our project. We planted shade trees on the perimeter of 17 acres of land and fenced it to protect the seedlings. A talented artist with us completed a beautiful mural at the entrance to the school, with the words "Peace Be With You" to greet passing settlers and villagers alike.

We went to sleep on the night we finished with the satisfaction of a job well-done, only to awaken in the morning and discover that the settlers had destroyed much of the new fence and covered the mural with death threats and Jewish stars. We knew that was a possibility. But we were surprised the settlers hadn't

waited until we left. Their timing suggested that their message was intended for our group, as well as for the people of Bourin. No one we met in the village of Bourin had faith in the current peace process. Not only do those Palestinians still live under harsh military occupation, but the one promise that (the former) Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made that could have served as a confidence-building measure — the freeze on settlements — has not come to pass.

Since the Rabin-Arafat handshake in September 1993, more than 40,000 acres of Palestinian land has been confiscated, and settlement construction continues daily. Yitzhar has doubled in size. Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur claims that during the five-year negotiating process set out in the Oslo accords, settlement expansion will be "an achievement that Israel will present to Palestinian negotiators as a geographic fact."

And what about the Clinton administration? Israeli settlements have progressed from being "illegal" under Carter, to "obstacles to peace" in the Reagan and Bush era, to "complicating factors" under Clinton. What's next: "unfortunate necessities?"

The expansion of the settlements, the daily harassment by the settlers and the lack of protection and justice that the Palestinians experience will continue to drive moderate Palestinians into the arms of the Islamic extremists. Is it any wonder why?

Leah Green, an American Jew, directs the Midwest Citizen Diplomacy Project for the Earthstewards Network, based on Bainbridge Island. She attended the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and works several months each year in the West Bank. The above article is reprinted from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

LETTERS

Discrimination should end

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to emphasise points raised by Karen Asfour (Rights for women, Oct. 22) and Samia Kirk (Demanding equal rights, Oct. 24). I guess the question repeats itself: "Is it fair to a Jordanian woman not to pass on her nationality to her children? Aren't women, under democracy, entitled to the same rights as men?"

My sister and I were born to a non-Jordanian father. We were raised in Jordan, completed our studies in Jordanian schools and universities, and yet the law deprives my sister, or any other person in her situation, of the right to obtain a Jordanian nationality. I, for one, was lucky to marry a Jordanian making me eligible, by law, for a dual nationality. My sister, on the other hand, had to leave Jordan due to restrictions imposed on the employment of non-Jordanians, making living conditions for her unsatisfactory. In an open society such as ours, where mixed marriages

do take place, I believe it is about time for lawmakers to tackle the issue and work on amendments. My sister and I are only two of the countless women in Jordan who share the same plight. Our sense of belonging to this beloved country makes it quite difficult to accept the fact that after all these years, we, in the eyes of the law, are still looked at and treated as foreigners.

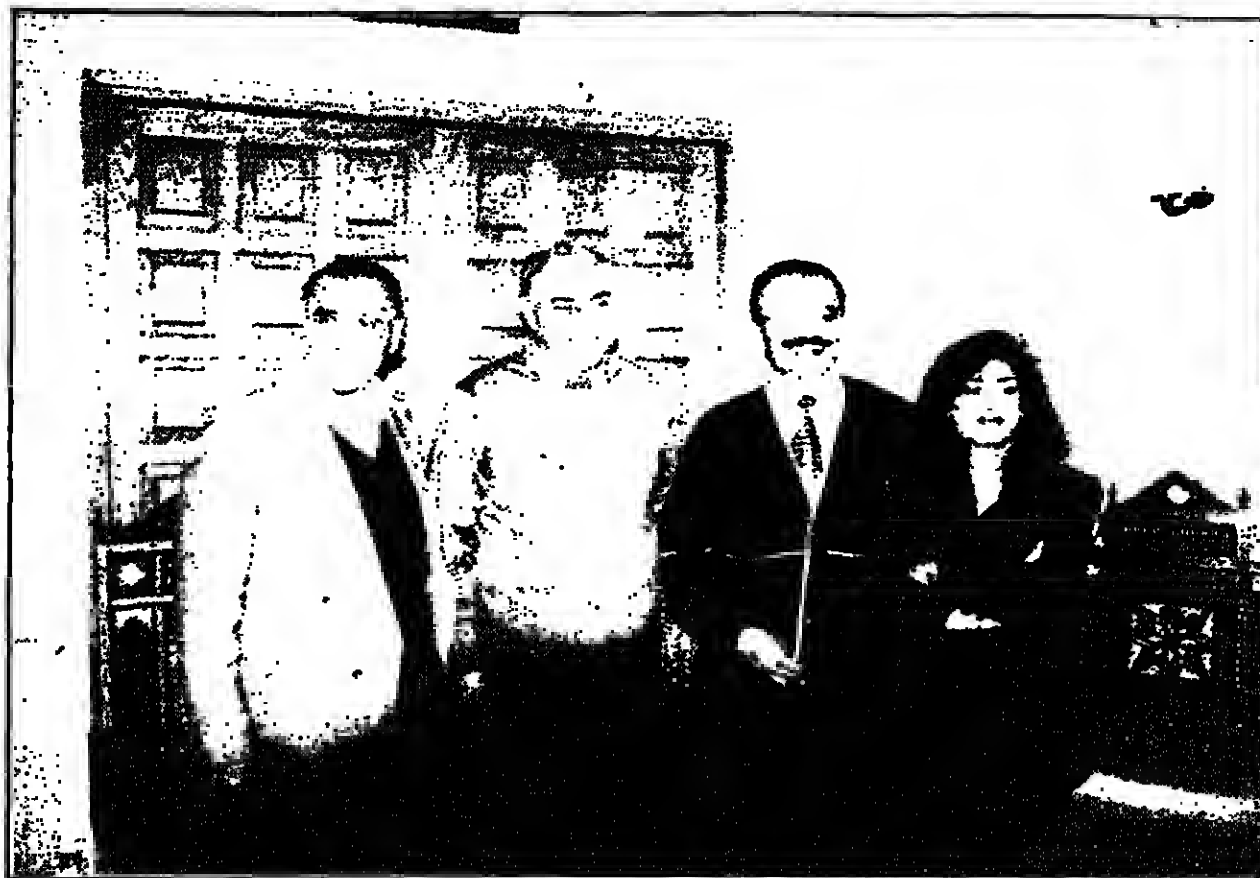
Mrs. Mary Naqul,
Amman.

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Society on the Move

When a sense of humour helps

Mother Nature played an odd trick on Wednesday morning. What could have been described as a power breakfast meeting, hosted by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, for prominent businesspersons, senior officials and a limited number of journalists, on the Jordanian side, and a delegation of 90 American businesspersons was interfered with by fog. Air traffic controllers at Marka Airport, where the American guests were scheduled to land from a short haul flight from Tel Aviv, said the visibility was much too poor to allow the aircraft to land, and conditions at Queen Alia International Airport were even worse. The plane was re-routed back to Tel Aviv when it became apparent that it would not be able to land within a reasonable time. That decided, the Crown Prince and Princess Sarvath invited the guests who did come to breakfast into the Basman Palace dining room for what turned out to be a relaxed get-together with a few words from the Crown Prince on Jordan's position in taking on partnerships in peace building. The 50 or so guests, were graciously invited back for afternoon tea to meet with the American guests and exchange talk about concepts of peace partnerships in the business sector, and perhaps as a result, build on the day's contacts in the future. They included such figures as former prime ministers Zeid Rifai and Abdul Salam Majali, former Minister of Planning and Industry and Trade and Chairman of the Jordan Export and Finance Bank Ziad Fariz, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan Michel Mario, Jordan Television and Radio Corporation Director General Ihsan Ramzi, Jordan Television Director Nasser Judeh and his wife HRH Princess Sumaya, Royal Scientific Society President Hani Mulki, Royal Jordanian President Nader Dahabi, Amman Bank for Investments President Maher Shukri, and Artisan Director Hind Nasser. We heard the afternoon session went well.



(Left to right) Nabil Sawalha, Faisal Hussein, Hisham Yanis and Amal Dabbas smile for the camera during a recent visit by actors Sawalha, Yanis and Dabbas to Orient House in Jerusalem

SUBDUED SURROUNDINGS: Those of us who followed the opening of Parliament by His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday could not have failed to notice the different setting on our television screens. A stately marble podium blending into the more modern colour scheme of soft beige and warm green was the centrepiece of the new surroundings. A newly installed public address system makes the deputies' every word crystal clear, and with that one might be more conscious of whether his/her microphone is turned up. Electronic voting is being introduced. The buttons are there but the screen to illustrate the yeas and nays is not yet ready. The entire refurbishing package cost an approximate JD 1.5 million. The decorators must have a finger on the society's pulse, as negative comments were few and far between. The work was the effort of the Ministry of Public Works whose staff are lodged in a building adjacent to the Parliament. While the deputies struggle with the lack of offices in which to conduct their work as representatives of the people, they have their eyes on the Public Works Ministry building. Efforts to negotiate a deal with the nearby Housing Bank building failed. Meanwhile, the Public Works Ministry is in search of an appropriate and reasonably priced facility. If that is accomplished soon, the deputies may yet have a place to greet their constituents, and hide from "wastia" seekers.

LAUGHTER — A PEACE PRESCRIPTION: They made the "Critics Choice" in the Jerusalem Post's What's On section, received between a 5 to 10-minute standing ovation in Tel Aviv, met with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official in charge of the Jerusalem file Faisal Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, and were applauded, hugged and kissed in Arab villages throughout the West Bank and Israel. We speak of none other than the political comedy troupe of Nabil and Hisham. Back in Amman from taking their show, Salam, Ya Salam, on the road, Nabil Sawalha and Hisham Yanis performed 18 shows in 21 days in the West Bank and Israel. If they were not performing or rehearsing they were being interviewed for several Israeli television programmes plus major American and British broadcasting networks and the print media, or strolling through towns and villages. They performed in Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Jerusalem, where people said "thank you for remembering us." Of their Jewish audiences they said, "they were sceptical that Arabs had no sense of humour, but after the first skit they recognised the rhythm and roared with laughter from their

seats, especially at our depictions of them." The meeting of the actors with Mr. Peres came at the request of the prime minister. According to Nabil, he immediately complained to Mr. Peres that his hairline was very difficult to reproduce. Nabil plays the part of the new Israeli premier in the latest version of the show. The actors and Mr. Peres swapped jokes during their brief visit. Against an obscure backdrop of opposition, most notable of which has been the threat by the Jordanian Writers Association to revoke Hisham Yanis' membership, the troupe headed "stage west" to break some ice and make Arabs and Jews laugh at themselves. According to Nabil, it was good medicine for all.

GIVE'EM SPACE: Petra, the Jordan News Agency, is planning for the future. No need to get overexcited. Planning, here, means a move. Cramped into offices at the Fourth Circle, the staff of 185 can expect to step into new quarters as soon as next February, provided the just com-

pleted six-storey building in Shmeisani between the Marriott and Forte Grand hotels is ready for occupancy by then. Earlier, sources said the new offices would be located somewhere along University Road, where the four dailies and the largest selling weekly (Shihani) are published. While Petra officials said they were still negotiating the amount of monthly rent the agency would be paying, insiders say the new lease calls for about JD 70,000 per year up from the current rent of about JD 19,000 annually. They also said the move itself would cost about JD 10,000. The new costs, if correctly estimated, would take a hefty chunk out of the agency's current JD1 million annual budget. Although the government has submitted its fiscal 1996 budget proposal to Parliament with an 11 per cent increase over 1995, there is no telling yet how the Ministry of Information will fare. The Petra relocation, say the officials, is a necessity to provide the staff with more "open space" and a "better location."

SHOP TIL YOU DROP: Taking place this week are dinners and receptions attached to sundry events starting Saturday with the Beirut Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Lebanese Industrialists Society who are hosting a dinner, under the patronage of Lebanese Ambassador William Habib, on the occasion of the official inauguration of an exhibition of Lebanese products in Amman at the Philadelphia Hotel. This is the second such exhibition since 1993, in accordance with a bilateral agreement to exchange national products exhibitions and offer direct sale of some items to the visiting public. Jordan will hold a similar exhibit in Beirut in April. This week's exhibition, which actually opens on Friday, will include mattresses, bedding, linens, shoes, handbags, silverware, clothing and women's prêt-à-porter, children's clothing, stockings, cosmetics, perfumes, champous, etc. A shopaholic could probably get all his/her holiday shopping done in one visit. Those invited to the dinner will be entertained by a Lebanese folklore song and dance troupe. On through Dec. 16, the exhibition will be inaugurated Saturday morning under the joint patronage of Mr. Habib and Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb. On Sunday, The Arab Thought Forum, under the guidance of its secretary general, Ali Umileh, will host the Arab-Austria Dialogue Seminar with an evening reception at the Forte Grand Hotel. And just as we were about to give up our search at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on a fellow named Amjad Hani Musa, we find that he will be hosting a reception on the occasion of Kenya's national day on Tuesday at the Marriott. Mr. Musa, who a few months ago was named honorary consul for Kenya in Jordan, has been impossible to track down, so we are glad to see him surface and hope to get to know him and learn something of his activities as the honorary envoy of this African state.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Development — Real yet elusive

Development Studies: A Reader
Edited by Stuart Corbridge
London, Edward Arnold, 1995, 475 pages

This comprehensive book combines the theoretical debate on how and why development does or does not materialise, with empirical studies of specific countries' experience. Unfortunately, the essays do not include the Middle East, but some do address issues relevant to the region.

A basic premise of the book is that development studies are at an impasse. The dependency theories of the 60s and 70s stressed the external reasons for Third World countries' underdevelopment, arguing they must end their subordination to the developed countries in order to progress. Others located the cause of backwardness in the internal structures of Third World countries, arguing that this would be corrected as capitalism took hold. Indeed, TNCs (transnational corporations) have expanded their operations in the Third World enormously, and some Asian countries in particular have experienced marked growth. But the sobering experience of the 80s was that TNCs don't actually transfer much capital to the Third World, while famines, especially in Africa, called into question the predicted "trickle down" of capitalist benefits.

This debate has never been resolved. While dependency theories face serious critique, no alternative conceptual framework has been derived to guide development studies. Nonetheless, new directions are being pursued focusing on the role of infrastructure and institutions, linking micro- and macro-economics, and combining development with environmental, gender and democratisation concerns.

Another debate — and one which pertains to many Middle East countries — centres on the role of the state. Arturo Escobar notes that planning is a relatively new concept in human history, dating from European efforts to counter the side of industrialisation — crowded and dirty cities. While state endeavour did much to organise traffic and provide social services, this had a price: People lost much of their freedom to control their lives; they were rendered dependent on professionals, and forced into conformity.

The adoption of Western concepts of planning by

Third World countries is especially problematic in rural areas, for they contain a distinct urban bias: Peasants are viewed as objects to be changed; agriculture is exploited to create surplus for industrialisation; and emphasis on the market devalues self-sufficiency and the economic role of women, who are main producers of food in many countries.

Concerning state planning, the book gives no easy answer but presents the spectrum of divergent views, ranging from wholesale debunking of state intervention to stressing the need for selective governing of the market.

Much of the talk about economic growth in the post-peace Middle East contains references to the NICs (newly industrialising countries), such as Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong and South Korea. Here also the debate on the state's role in the economy intersects itself, for while the "Asian miracle" is often extolled as a result of free market policies, others point out that these states actively intervened to promote economic growth. A thoughtful article by Robert Wade shows that these countries' successes were predicated not only on a wise combination of state intervention and private sector input, but also on particular global conditions. He notes that their experience cannot be automatically duplicated: "Developing countries in the 1980s face an external environment more hostile than in any previous decade since the World War II" due to protectionism and volatile financial markets (p. 311). Planners must evaluate whether these factors have altered in the 90s.

Observations about family planning in this book may be interesting to Jordanians in view of the recently launched Birth Spacing Project. Data from South and East Asia is presented showing that rather than large families causing poverty, poverty motivates large families, for parents see children as providers for their old age.

Thus, governments cannot rely solely on information campaigns or handing out contraceptives, but must provide social insurance, and expand economic horizons and job opportunities for women. "Women, too, need to be empowered to take command of their own bodies" (p. 176).

Sally Bland

BOOK REVIEW

Ban on same-name marriages rankles in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — When Choi Sang-Han fell in love, he envisioned marriage, children and living happily ever after.

Then a 687-year-old law shoved its way into the wedding plans.

The problem is that despite no sign of blood ties in their family trees, Choi and his fiancée could not marry because they have the same surname.

So they were trapped in love, as are tens of thousands of others in a country where most of the 44 million people share a few dozen family names.

"This law is so horrendously wrong. It has violated our right to happiness," said Choi, who formed a lobbying organisation with the help of a family advocacy group two years ago.

The group won a small victory On Nov. 17 in the form of a special one-year amnesty issued by the National Assembly allowing same-name couples to marry.

That will allow couples like the Chois who have been living together to register their marriages starting Jan. 1, 1996. But it leaves the law in place, so the battle will continue.

The fight is against tradition in a homogeneous, tradition-rich nation. Couples like the Chois are pitted against South Korea's staunch Confucian establishment, which says

changing the family law would undermine social stability and harmony.

Written in 1308, when inbreeding was a concern because people lived in isolated villages for generations, the law conforms with Confucianism, under which families are defined as descendants along the male line, who pass on the family name.

Centuries later, everybody with the same clan name still is considered family and cannot marry, even though medical experts say the problems of inbreeding — the increased chance of rare hereditary diseases like hemophilia — are limited to marriages between close relatives.

The law does not mean that all Kims, for example, are banned from marrying each other. Several Kim clans exist, based on their region of origin. The most populous, the Kims from Kimhae, numbers over 1 million, or 5 per cent of the population.

The prohibition mainly affects the male side of a clan. On the mother's side, the prohibition applies only to five generations.

Choi wants the same rule applied on the father's side.

"I looked up our family tree for 15 generations and we are not related. It's illogical to say that we can't marry because we are

family," said Choi, a 33-year-old civil servant.

The Chois have been living together four years since exchanging vows at an informal ceremony attended by a few close relatives and friends.

But their inability to marry legally had left them ineligible for low-interest home loans and special family bonuses that are paid to married employees, generally about \$20 to \$100 a month, depending on family size. They also need separate medical and auto insurance.

No one knows for sure how many people are caught in the ban because most do not publicise their status. The Chois have kept their non-marriage a secret from neighbours and even distant relatives.

When the first special amnesty was issued in 1978, 4,500 couples were allowed to register their marriages. A second amnesty a decade later resulted in 12,400 couples registering.

Choi contends the number of same-name couples is rising and predicts tens of thousands will come forward next year, proving that the times have changed.

But activists also voiced fear that with the latest amnesty, the law may never be repealed.

"While the amnesty would allow the couples to

gain their legal rights, in a sense the amnesty is a let-down because that allows the law to stand while dissipating the demand for change," said Kwak Bae-Hee of the Korea Legal Aid Centre for Family Relations.

The opponents of changing the family law have opposed even the special amnesty, saying it would be no different from an outright appeal.

"To get rid of the same-name ban would shake the foundation of our nation's ethics," said Lee Chang-Sung of Sungkyunkwan, the nation's leading Confucian authority and head of the effort to resist changes to the family law.

"According to Confucianism, family is family, even if you are 100 generations removed," he said. "A few selfish people cannot be allowed to bring this country to ruins."

Critics counter that there are no similar laws in other Asian nations heavily influenced by Confucianism.

Lee is sure that even though another amnesty was passed, the law itself will never change because legislators worry about losing votes in the provinces, where conservatism is still the prevailing tone.

"The lawmakers will be chased out of town if they allow such a change," he said.

Breaking records

By Jean-Claude Elias

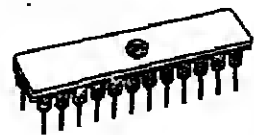
Question: What is the common point between the 100 metres track world record and the leading word processing programmes (WordPerfect and MS-Word 6.0) for personal computers? Answer: Both have become very difficult to improve.

Leroy Burrell, from the USA, officially broke the 100 metres world record by running the distance in 9.85 seconds, in Lausanne, Switzerland, on July 6, 1994. He is still the holder of the record to date. Burrell is not the only one to have broken the mythical 10 seconds barrier. American Carl Lewis and Canadian Ben Johnson both achieved similar results, give or take a few hundredths of a second. Specialists however, wonder how could any human being be able to run faster than that. The barrier now is at 9.5 seconds.

MS-Word 6.0 is supposed to be a word processor. There is of course no legal definition of what word processing (WP) should be. It is a "de facto" industry definition. Computer users however, have a simple, clear notion of what WP should be and what they expect it to do. Basically, WP is electronic typing, akin to typing with a traditional typewriter, with some advantages that the computer screen and memory can bring. These advantages mainly are the possibility to edit (erase, modify, add) before printing on hard copy and to store for future needs.

Almost all WP programmes (WordStar, WordPerfect, AmiPro and others) have taken the notion beyond the simple understanding of simple electronic typing. MS-Word 6.0 (for Windows) has even made it most friendly. Creating Mailing lists, integrating graphics and drawings, adding character's embellishment, automatic memorisation and insertion of strings of characters and so forth, have changed the name of the game. WP is not what it

chip talk



used to be. Word 6.0 actually looks more like a document publishing system than a powerful typing solution.

Software designers must find it very difficult to bring any improvement to packages like Word 6.0. Most users do not even use half of the function and facilities that are built in the programmes. Most refinements and additions have become very cosmetic — better-looking screens, faster processing or easier-to-understand icons. Nothing structural has been introduced since 1993.

Whatever Microsoft, Lotus or WordPerfect may think of in 1996 — we can certainly trust them to think of something new — must be additions that are not WP per se. They may even have to change the name, the concept of WP for that. One can imagine for example that the next version of MS-Word will let you compute the angle of your satellite dish for optimum reception of your favourite channel. Though one can call it an addition, it won't have anything to do with WP.

One thing software giants should do — they are probably doing it already — is to listen to their users' dearest wishes: Speed and simplicity. These are the only real improvements no one will argue about.

A mind blowing manifesto

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

While the ideas of the Eighties were progressive and idealistic in the sense that they believed that the future could be made much better, Nineties ideas are by far more cautious.

I have always believed that the new torrent of ideas involving architecture, science, music, culture, the environment and others would one day become recognised as part of a new mainstream movement among world intellectuals. And because of this, I have always felt it important to push through aspects of these ideas which I thought were of relevance to our lives today in spite of the difficulties and misunderstandings involved.

A recent report by The Independent newspaper in the United Kingdom reviewed what it called "Ideas for our times". What was striking about the report was the range and diversity of ideas that were on offer. Its conclusion was that while the ideas which dominated the Eighties had intellectually shared roots in the 19th century economics, the ideas of the Nineties came from all over the world as a clear indication of the openness and confusion of our times. Several themes stand out: One is that we are digging into our past much more to provide a guide to the future. Another is a newly found confidence in science and especially genetics in providing the basis for theories that could help explain how society works. Yet another is the interest in the glue that holds societies together, community, trust, and belonging, and the march away from more liberal societies.

One such idea and one of the buzzwords of the nineties is Asian values. In the Eighties, Britain and America convinced themselves that an Anglo-Saxon free-market model was superior to the rest of the world. In the Nineties, this confidence has evaporated and the West has become more interested in understanding what makes the East tick economically, bearing in mind its somewhat undemocratic nature.

It is also in the Nineties that the idea of animal rights has begun to be taken seriously in the mainstream of politics. Vegetarians have extended the argument to encompass health and food policy. And at its most radical, the new interest in animal rights and the environment is an attempt to persuade human society to adopt a different perspective towards the rest of the natural world.

Another idea is about communities on the Internet. In many ways, "Netism" defies political categorisation where people become part of a new virtual community inspired by hippyish ideas from the 1960s.

In the Eighties, political leaders often promised radical solutions to cut taxes and to sell off public enterprises to cut back the role of the state. But taxes rose, and privatisation only worked for a short while. In the Nineties, the focus has shifted to "reinventing government", to make it more efficient, effective, responsive, and financially viable.

One other idea of the Nineties is the rise of manism: The reassertion of men's right to be men in light of recent backlashes against feminism, political correctness, and affirmative action in the United States.

Another idea is about the re-emergence of Medievalism. Consider the parallels: We are suffering from new

plagues. The world is rent by religious and ethnic disputes fired by ancient rivalries. The affluent parts of developed societies are increasingly like fortresses protecting those inside from the hordes of people outside.

Another good idea, and an indication of one of the strongest intellectual currents of the decade that is the crossover of ideas from science into social thinking, is chaos theory.

Chaos theory is less about chaos and more about understanding complexity: How the weather changes and how stock markets work. It is about the simple idea that small changes can have big effects where the classic example is that the flapping of a butterfly's wings can cause a hurricane on the other side of the world. As a result, we face great uncertainty, unpredictability, and a world in which fixed positions get swept away.

One confident group selling their goods in the marketplace of ideas are the sociobiologists. These claim to be able to show not just how the human mind works, but also how it was shaped by evolution. And with more research underway on the genetic causes of unwelcome forms of behaviour — from criminality to alcoholism — it is almost certain that genetics will cause much more controversy, beyond genetically altered dairy goods, in the future.

Community is another one of those buzzwords of the Nineties. It came about in reaction to a fear of social fragmentation and division. Communitarians stress the importance of organisations which come between the individual and the state and which provide the much needed social cement: The family, voluntary organisations, religious institutions and schools.

Like the Greens, the communitarians argue that we have paid insufficient attention to the needs of the social and moral environment in pursuit of economic growth and consumerism. Communitarians believe that parents should be encouraged to take time off work during the early years of their children's lives, to care for them and nurture their moral sensibilities.

Communitarianism is not cosy: It demands sacrifices from individuals for the sake of maintaining the social fabric.

Another good idea is the value of trust to make societies more stable and more productive. Most Western societies are riddled with chronic distrust. Trust in politics has fallen because politicians are widely seen to have failed the electorate — failed to deliver on their promises, and failed to uphold standards in public life.

Another major source of distrust is uncertainty about what the future might hold, especially in our working lives. We employ hushers alarms because we do not trust other people not to break into our property while we are away.

This decline of trust is central to our sense of malaise, and high levels of trust are necessary for stability and economic success.

Finally, it remains important for us to be aware of all those ideas floating around in Western societies today because they will come to mean a great deal for our lives in the future just as they do today in the West. And once we do that, maybe we can learn something about our future.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 7, 1995

- 1:00 Iris - The Happy Professor
- 1:10 Fireman Sam
- 1:25 Hurricanes
- 1:50 My Secret Identity
- 2:10 NBA
- 3:00 The New Leave It To Beaver
- 3:30 White Heat
- 4:30 Gillette World Sport Special
- 5:00 French Programme
- Sophie Et Virginie
- 5:30 Varieties
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- Archimede
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Carol And Company
- 8:00 The Album Show
- 8:50 Glass Virgin
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Movie — "Thorn Well"
- Starring: Glenn Turner & Vincent Gardenia
- 12:00 Nancy Wake

Friday, Dec. 8, 1995

- 1:00 The Little Mermaid
- 1:30 Beethoven
- 1:45 Lift-Off
- 2:00 Bush School
- 2:25 Super Carrier
- 3:15 Goldrush In Alaska
- 4:05 Movies, Games And Videos
- 5:00 French Programme
- Sophie Et Virginie
- 5:30 Telefilm
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- Sports Et Musique
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Coach
- 8:00 Natural Wonders Of Europe
- 8:45 America's Funniest People
- 9:10 Wolf
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Second Chances (Drama) Part 3
- 11:30 Feature — "Foul Play"
- Starring: Goldie Hawn & Chevy Chase

Saturday, Dec. 9, 1995

- 2:00 Back To The Future
- 2:30 Harry And The Hendersons
- 3:00 Blue Heelers
- 3:30 Only In Hollywood
- 4:00 The Adventures Of The Black Stallion
- 4:30 Sky Trackers
- 5:00 French Programme
- Fractales
- 5:30 Magazine
- Omnisciences
- 6:00 Drama
- Cest Mon Histoire
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- Faut Pas Rever
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Major Dad
- 8:00 First Flights
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Feature: "Leaving Normal"
- Starring: Christine Lahti & Mej Tilly
- 12:00 L'histoire Secrete Du Petrole
- 12:40 My Good Friend

Sunday, Dec. 10, 1995

- 2:00 The Flintstones
- 2:25 Droopy Master Detective
- 3:00 Family Playhouse
- 3:15 Scientific Eye
- 3:40 Pugwall's Snimmer
- 4:00 The Adventures Of The Black Stallion
- 4:30 Sky Trackers
- 5:00 French Programme
- Fractales
- 5:30 Serie
- Fruits Et Legumes
- 6:00 Document

- 7:00 Mille Ans D Civilisation
- 7:15 Le Journal
- 7:30 Magazine
- Sports Et Musique
- 7:35 News Headlines
- 7:35 Bongies Diner
- 8:00 Cinema, Cinema
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 Labours Of Eve
- 9:30 Heartbeat — A Special Edition on World AIDS
- Day
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Counterstrike
- 11:15 Anastasia Ep. 2
- 12:00 My Two Wives

Monday, Dec. 11, 1995

- 2:00 Shelly Duvall's Bedtime Stories
- 2:30 Richie Rich
- 2:45 The Animals Of The Mediterranean
- 3:15 Hey Dad
- 3:40 Discover Magazine
- 4:00 The Adventures Of The Black Stallion
- 4:30 Sky Trackers
- 5:00 French Programme
- Fractales
- 5:30 Serie
- Madame Le Provisseur
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- Nimbos
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 McHale's Navy
- 8:00 Invention
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Anna EP. III
- 11:15 The American Chart Show
- 12:00 New York Undercover

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 1995

- 2:00 Captain Planet
- 2:30 Earth Star Voyager
- 3:00 Run The Gauntlet
- 4:00 The Adventures Of The Black Stallion
- 4:30 Sky Trackers
- 5:00 French Programme
- Fractales
- 5:30 Serie
- Fruits Et Legumes
- 6:00 Documentary
- Croisiere A La Decouverte Du Monde
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- Ushuaia
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 You Bet Your Life
- 8:00 The Secrets Of The Treasure Islands
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 True Blue
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 I'll Take Manhattan Ep. 1
- 11:15 Feature: "The Revenge Of Al-Copone"
- Starring: Ray Sharkey & Debra Farentino

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 1995

- 2:00 Inspector Gadget
- 2:55 Ghost Writer
- 3:00 Tomorrow's World
- 3:30 Amazing Stories
- 4:00 The Adventures Of The Black Stallion
- 4:30 Sky Trackers
- 5:00 French Programme
- Fractales
- 5:30 Jeux
- Les Tresors Du Monde
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- Sports Et Musique
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Anything For A Laugh
- 8:00 The Nature Of Things
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Prism
- 10:45 Law And Order
- 11:30 The Silk Road
- 12:30 Second Thoughts

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

MOHAMMAD A. SHUQAIR

FACTS & FIGURES

PEOPLE OF THE WORLD

- Population year 1992: 5,420,391,000.
- Population year 2010 (projected): 7,113,941,000.
- Population year 2025 (projected): 8,545,632,000.
- Total urban population: 2,311,420,000.
- Urban population: 24.72%.
- Total population growth: 91,039,9666.
- Population growth: 1.68%.
- Total birth: 141,242,041.
- Birth rate: 26.06 per 1,000 persons.
- Fertility rate: 3.34 children born per woman.
- Total deaths: 50,202,076.
- Death rate: 9.26 deaths per 1,000.
- Population under 15: 1,760,889,000.
- Percentage under age 15: 32.5%.
- Population over age 65: 331,219,000.
- Percentage over age 65: 6.11%.

CUSTOMER: "This wallet is too small but I like it."

SALESMAN: "It isn't small at all, sir. You'd keep nothing in it except your sins, wouldn't you?"

PUPIL: "What does 'love' mean, Miss?"

TEACHER: Love, my boy, means loving your father, mother, brothers, sisters and....."

PUPIL: "I wonder why Dad loves our maid!"

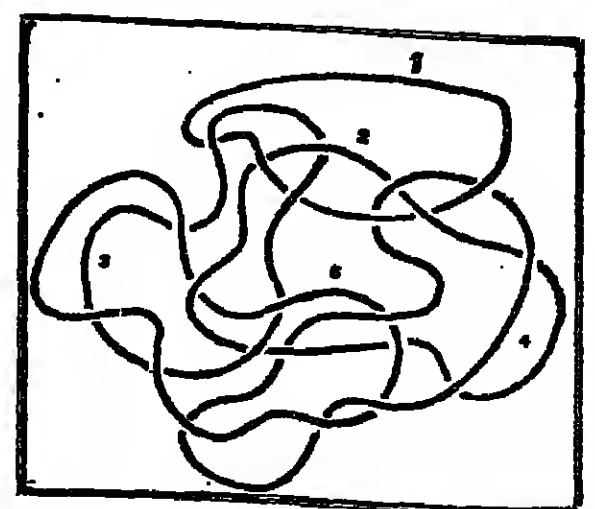
BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

SAY 'YES' OR 'NO'

1. Was Cape Kennedy previously called Cape Carnival?
2. Does the eating of certain fruits cause beri-beri?
3. Does a pound of water weigh slightly more when it's frozen?
4. Is Labrador part of the province of Newfoundland?
5. Do most Newfoundlanders stress the syllable "found" in Newfoundland?
6. Are there any frogs that nurse their young (suckle them)?
7. Is there any non-technical word in English in which the letter "s" occurs six times?
8. Are La Gioconda and the Mona Lisa one and the same painting?

PUZZLES

THIS diagram is supposed to show FIVE loops of string. If you cut one of the loops, the others will all fall apart. Which loop must be cut?



LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- ** He works hard. **Howa yashtagbil bejjid.**
- ** He is a violinist. **Innahu azif kaman.**
- ** He is very careless. **Innahu mohmilon jiddan.**
- ** Can you explain this? **Hal tastati' tawdeeh thalek?**
- ** He has a responsible position. **Yatabawwa'u markazan mas'oolan.**
- ** He studies physics at the University of Jordan. **Yadross al-fiza fi jame'at al Ordoniya.**
- ** I'll be waiting for you at the station at 10 a.m. sharp. **Sa'akoonu bintizarika fili-mahatta fis-sa'a al-ashira sabahan hid'dabt.**
- ** I wish it wasn't raining. **Laytaha lam tumtir.**
- ** Who told you that? **Man qala laka hatha?**
- ** This is an easy question. I suppose you know the answer. **Hatha su'alon sahl. Athonnu annaka tariful jawab.**
- ** He is extremely polite. **Innahu mu'addabon lilghaya.**
- ** We are used to this kind of weather. **Nahnu mu'taadoon ala hathan' naw minat-taqs.**

JOKES

— WIFE: "Take care of my husband, doctor! If he dies, I'd surely go with him."

DOCTOR: "Who will pay the fees then, madam?"

Not unplugged, not quite live — the Stones' latest

By Larry McShane
The Associated Press
NEW YORK — They're a pair of perfect bosts, with drastically different styles: Mick Jagger and Keith Richards.

Jagger, in a sport coat, welcomes a guest to his 50th floor suite in the posh Four Seasons Hotel. "Have we met before?" he inquires, a spectacular view of Lower Manhattan unfolding behind him. He sits politely for 20 minutes of questions, sipping an Evian water.

Richards, in a black vest over a denim shirt over a silk shirt, immediately steers his guest to the well-stocked bar of his Upper East Side hotel suite, offering this raspy encouragement: "Help yourself, man. E.M.G." What's that, Keith? "E.M.G. — everything must go," he smiles, handing over a bottle of Beck's.

Jagger and Richards, bandmates since 1962, have evolved into rock's Yin and Yang. Jagger has thrived. Keith has survived, and both were in Manhattan a week apart to plug the band's new live acoustic record, "Stripped."

Jagger, 52, still has the lean body of a dancer. He is alternately funny, charming, witty, self-deprecating.

Richards, 51, chain-smokes, and his answers are more stream of conscious-

ness, the questions mere interruptions. He flits from recording studio technology to Louie Armstrong's big bands to the relationship between record companies and arms dealers.

A silver skull ring gleams in the light as Richards waves his right hand to emphasise his words — this time, about the Stones' megabucks deal with Microsoft for the rights to use Start Me Up in its "Windows '95" campaign.

The agreement was a first for the band, which once mocked commercialism in (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction.

"I have no sell-out phobia," Richards growled. "This is '95, baby, and the world's changing. ... I never said, 'buy heroin.' Leave that to me" he laughed heartily.

Jagger, who dismissed reports that the Stones collected \$12 million from Microsoft, acknowledged that he was not thrilled by the deal.

"I did have concerns, and I voiced them," Jagger said seriously. "I'd rather not go into all the details, but I did have concerns. I think the product you're involved with is kind of important."

"I don't want to do dog food," Jagger continued. Then, with a smile coming from his famous lips, he continued: "Though if you're out there, Purina ..."

The Microsoft flap is one of the glimmer twins' few disagreements these days. The band, which appeared on the verge of extinction during the late '80s with sniping between Mick and Keith, is back to its old rocking self, Richards said in what amounted to a "state of the Stones address."

"Steel Wheels, we were just out of surgery," Richards explained of their 1989 album and tour. "Voodoo Lounge is like recuperation. And this one is the Stones' feeling very good about themselves."

Stripped is not the typical Stones live package. It offers new versions of old songs done acoustically — some on stage in small European clubs, others during rehearsals, most for the first time in more than 20 years.

There are hits: Street Fighting Man, Angie, Let It Bleed. There are covers: Bob Dylan's Like A Rolling Stone, Robert Johnson's Love In Vain, Buddy Holly's Not Fade Away. And there are rarities: The Spider And The Fly, The B-side to Satisfaction.

"I thought it was a good idea to get away from doing a 'best of' stadium tracks kind of thing, because we did that on the last tour," Jagger said. "And the previous live album was exactly the same. And you know, after a while, you really

should do something else."

Both Jagger and Richards argued this is not simply the Stones unplugged — and they have a point. It's not a greatest hits live, or recorded in a studio for an MTV audience. Richards said tapping some songs during rehearsal led to a loose, lively sound.

"Nobody actually thought they were making a record," said Keith, cigarette in hand. "These are rehearsals. It's not, 'giving your all, take 31. Into the trenches, over the top.' Maybe just the 'pressure off' thing gave it that extra flavour."

Jagger said he's not a big fan of unplugged albums.

"I think there's one or two things that are good on them, but as a genre, it really doesn't excite me that much," he said. "We didn't want some semantic purity. It's more of an attitude thing."

The sessions raised some long-forgotten memories. When they sat down to work out a new version of Sweet Virginia from Exile On Main Street, the band soon realised that only Jagger had played on the original.

"It was one of those things where we were waiting for people to turn up," Jagger recalled of those party-hearty sessions from 1972. "Jimmy Miller played the drums, and Mick Taylor



Rolling Stones' Mick Jagger (left) and Keith Richards in action during a recent performance in Stockholm, Sweden (AFP photo)

played guitar and bass, Billy Preston played piano and I sang.

"I think we were waiting for Keith to turn up. So we figured that no one in the room apart from me had played on that."

It also gave Jagger and Richards a chance to go through their three-decade catalogue of songs.

Richards was defiant that the Stones still had a lot of mileage ahead. He happily noted that talk about retire-

ment did not accompany the band on the Voodoo Lounge tour.

"Nobody's taken a rock 'n' roll band this far," he said. "And we've had to live with (getting called) the dinosaurs of rock, the

grandfathers, the dons. ... Either you crumble under that or you say, 'yeah, man? You get up on stage with me. I'd like to see you try it.'"

"We've got plenty of juice in us yet."

Vietnam's colonial Opera House set for world debut

By Chris Johnson
Reuters
HAVO — Luciano Pavarotti has never sung there — he's probably never even heard of it — but Hanoi's ornate colonial opera house will soon be on the world tour circuit and hoping for a visit from the Italian tenor.

Built by the French at the turn of the century and a symbol of oppression for several generations of nationalists, the 800-seat music hall was left to rot in its own dilapidated corner of the Vietnamese capital for almost 50 years.

Its last opera was staged in the 1950s and bushes and trees now grow over its mouldy balustrades.

But as Communist Vietnam finally leaves the gulag and moves towards a market economy, the building is finding another role as a showcase for the country's new self-confidence.

The government has just started a two-year \$20 million refurbishment which aims to turn the building into one of Asia's premier venues for culture and the arts.

"It will be a platform for opera, ballet, Western classical music generally and even traditional Vietnamese opera," said Hoang Dao Kinh, director of Vietnam's National Centre for Monument Conservation who is supervising the restoration.

Spending lavishly on imported fittings and equipment, the restoration will be Vietnam's most ambitious ever and should be completed in time to host the summit of the Commonwealth of French-speaking countries, the Francophonie, in November 1997.

Announcing the closure of the building for restoration in September, Vietnamese Vice Minister of Culture and Information Vu Khac Lien, said the government was hoping up to \$5 million of funding would come from foreign companies and governments.

But Mr. Kinh said Vietnam would go ahead with the work whether or not overseas money became available.

"We will bring it back to its original design condition to make it something every Vietnamese is proud of," Mr. Kinh said.

Designed in 1896 by an unknown follower of the French architect Charles Garnier, who built the Paris Opera 30 years earlier, it was intended to reflect the

glories of the French empire with its massive neo-classical pillared facade, rwindomed roof and high Baroque interior.

"It is a monumental, a spectacular building, sitting alone at the end of one of Hanoi's most impressive streets," said Annalisa Koeman, projects officer for the Friends of Hanoi Architectural Heritage Foundation. "Its plans aimed to seat most of the European population of the city of the time."

The extravagant design came under fire from contemporary critics who labelled it a "folly of grandeur" and complained its construction took priority over badly-needed sewers.

Soon after construction began in 1901, its budget was cut by the French colonial authorities and when work finally ended in 1911 some of the features originally planned had been removed.

"They ran out of money," said Mr. Kinh. "The original designs called for much expensive stonework... But we will do the job as it should have been done,"

keeping the style exactly as it is but replacing where necessary and improving the materials."

The graceful staircase leading to the grand tier and boxes will be relaid with Italian marble while the ceiling and wall mouldings around the auditorium will finally have their many layers of yellow paint stripped out. They will finally get the gilding they were promised but never got almost 100 years ago.

New public gardens and fountains will be laid around the Opera House to attract visitors and nearby buildings will have to be low-level to maintain its relative height.

One room will be left almost untouched.

The mosaics and mouldings in the giant mirror ball will be cleaned and restored exactly as they were on Aug. 19, 1945 when his imposing balcony was the platform for the proclamation of Ho Chi Minh's Vietnamese Revolution.

Bullet-holes in two of the hall's mirrors looking out onto August Revolution Place, once called Foch Square, still mark a fire-fight between Communist

Viet Minh Brigades and the French and Japanese occupation forces.

Legend has it that a French audience continued to listen to a violin recital inside the building as a hail-raged in the square outside.

Ms. Koeman said it is vital that such an important landmark is preserved sensitively, maintaining its links with the past.

"Right now it is decrepit, the toilets stink and the chairs are uncomfortable. It obviously needs to be upgraded for people to use. But it is also an unprecedented cultural relic that shouldn't be 'improved' into oblivion," she said.

Vietnamese soprano Le Dzung hopes the restored building will be far more than a historical curiosity and may become a focus for the cultural life of the city.

"I am sure it will enthuse everyone," she said. "I hope they complete the work soon. Its acoustics are excellent."

Nguyen Dieu Hang, a violinist working in one of the city's many halls, agreed: "It must help music in the city, and bring us more visitors... Maybe even Pavarotti."



A Vietnamese vendor pushes her 'rolling store' in front of the French-built Opera House in central Hanoi. The Opera House, erected in 1911, has just started a two-year \$20 million renovation (Reuters photo)

Elisabeth Shue breaks goody-goody typecasting

By Ric Leyva
The Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — The first thing Elisabeth Shue does is dim the lights.

"Yeah, much better," she says, innocently enough.

There's plenty of daylight, left in the room, but after watching her devastating portrayal of a beautiful, street-tough booker in Leaving Las Vegas, the lights-out move would make any man uneasy.

But it's OK. She's worried about overhead glare, not mood lighting. Whew.

Casual in blue jeans, a white silk button-down and hardly any makeup, her eyes shine green through the broken half-light, stray beams from outside bringing the colour out, doing the same with strands of her tousled golden hair, shading the slight dimple in her chin.

Looking at her makes her smile, but she swallows it down and gets serious.

Starring with Nicolas Cage in perhaps the darkest film of the year, Shue slips the goody-goody girlfriend typecasting mold saddling her since her 1984 film debut in The Karate Kid.

Unhappy after a string of unchallenging ingenue roles including Cocktail, Adventures In Babysitting, Soapdish and The Marrying Man, a sudden career downturn gave her the missing ingredient in her quest for transformation: the heart-breaking doubts accompanying failure.

"I'm glad I went through those six years of not being able to find parts and questioning myself and wondering whether I would ever

act again," she says. "That helped me with a part like this because I becoming desperate. I really felt like I was desperate."

Desperation was her passport into the world of Sera, a young, savvy prostitute who prowls casinos, for adventuresome conventioners and other prospective clientele.

Crossing her eyes and making a sour face when called the quintessential girl-next-door, Shue, at age 32, has just one word on her mind: Breakthrough.

"I've been thinking about how many women have played roles similar to this and how it's really been their first role of being able to break free of any limitations they had in the past," she says hopefully. "It's just incredible how many people — Jennifer Jason Leigh, Patricia Arquette. It goes back generations. Catherine Deneuve in Belle D'Jour."

She certainly convinced her gifted, brooding co-star, without whom the grim film probably would never have been made.

"Elisabeth was incredible," Cage raved. "She's going to open a lot of people's eyes."

Together, they tell the story of Sera and Ben, an alcoholic, failed screenwriter and Hollywood agent who decides to literally drink himself to death. And where better than Las Vegas?

As Sera, Ben's unlikely angel, Shue is everything Julia Roberts wasn't in Pretty Woman. Mainly, she's real.

"I spent time with some callgirls, getting to know them and understanding

why they were who they were," she says. "I heard a lot of denial. They wanted me to see them as businesswomen that were very powerful and very in control. They talked a lot about feeling numb."

"Because that's where the power is, that they feel nothing. That they're never vulnerable to men again. That they are in control of them. They leave the room and they feel nothing, and men obviously feel a lot."

"I left with a deep understanding and a real appreciation for what those women go through, and no judgment whatsoever."

Getting a grip on gritty, everyday Las Vegas took preparation too.

"I went there for a while, to spend enough time to feel the loneliness of the place when you don't just come for the weekend and leave," she says. "The people aren't happy. The ones who stay, there is a desperation inside of them. They don't see the lights anymore. They start to glaze over."

"They don't really care if they win or lose. That whole high and low that you're supposed to go there to feel, it's just like an encapsulation of life. In a few hours you get to feel, wow, great when you win and, ugh, bad when you lose," she says, lighting up and slumping down for emphasis. "And no one feels that anymore. They stay and just feel nothing. To me that, ugh, feels just like death."

Shue, reared in suburban New Jersey and Ivy-League educated, says despite her background she never fit the "nice girl" mold Hollywood rushed to put her in. She

explains it all while gulping down takeout sushi, spicing her lunch with expletives as well as wasabi.

After a young girlhood spent as a tomboy, "I went into that whole cool phase," she says. "I was very cool and hard and decadent and irresponsible. And I went through that phase for a very long time. I'm still coming out of that one."

She never saw her lack of street experience as a handicap in playing Sera.

"I think everybody has a lot of pain that they go through in their life that is their own secret, their own struggle that nobody really knows about," she says. "The fact that you go to Harvard or Wellesley doesn't take that away."

The sister of Melrose Place hunk Andrew Shue admits her brother's sudden TV success fired her competitive career drive.

"He didn't go through the amount of struggle I did," she says.

After Leaving Las Vegas, she made Trigger Effect with Kyle MacLachlan and Dermot Mulroney to further ease her career desperation somewhat, but she's still very selective, almost militant about it.

"I used to go to auditions and I'd be like, 'what do you want?' And now, well, now she uses those expletives."

"I say, 'this is what I want to express in this role and if we can come to an agreement then we should work together and if we don't, we shouldn't.'"

"It's scary to do that ... but it's ultimately more fulfilling."

Goodbye, goody-goody.

Australian film industry returns to the spotlight

By Belinda Goldsmith
Reuters
MELBOURNE — Australia's film industry has hounded back into the spotlight after a lull in private funding with a reel of internationally successful releases, all with a fresh, quirky appeal now typical of Australian films.

Movies like the Adventures Of Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert, a tale of drag queens travelling through the outback, and Muriel's Wedding, centred around a fairytale wedding, received worldwide acclaim in 1994 despite their low budgets.

In 1995 the movie Babe, the story of a pig aspiring to be a sheepdog, has already been a smash hit in the United States.

Another newcomer, Angel Baby, swept the board this month at the 37th Australian Film Industry (AFI) Awards, recognised as Australia's answer to Hollywood's Oscars or Britain's BAFTAs.

Angel Baby's writer and director Michael Rymer said the film, a love story involving two schizophrenics, had already been sold to over 25 countries.

Rymer attributed the growing success of Australian

films in part to government funding which paid for 38 film and television productions worth \$85 million in 1994/95.

"There are not many governments that fund an industry on a level that the Australian government does," Rymer told Reuters.

"That is one reason why people like me get to do these things," he said.

The Australian Film Commission (ACF) said that in the same period the total value of funding from Australian commercial broadcasters and private investors declined markedly to \$26 million for 18 titles from

\$69 million for 15 titles a year earlier in 1993/94.

"This decline affected the production value of feature films and, to a lesser extent, the production value of series and serials produced in 1994/95," ACF chief executive Cathy Robinson said in the ACF's sixth annual production survey.

But Robinson said this had started to change.

A total of 17 feature films valued at \$67 million started between July and November this year, compared with a total of 20 films made in the year to June 30, 1995 costing \$84 million, and 31 titles in 1993/94.

Iodine illness afflicts millions of Chinese

THE VILLAGE of Wangjiashan, in central Henan province, is known locally as the "village of mental retardation." Out of a population of 500, some 58 are seriously retarded and another 270 have slight retardation.

It is a bleak place. Many households are no longer capable of basic farming skills, three-quarters of the local primary schoolchildren fail their examinations, and the few remaining village enterprises have been taken over by outsiders because no one in Wangjiashan is capable of running them. "Life of the mentally retarded people is moving more and more into extreme poverty," said China's National Office for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled in a recent documentary about the village.

Wangjiashan suffers not from some exotic virus, nor from an environmental accident. The cause of the village's affliction is a deficiency of iodine, an element so crucial for development of the human brain that a daily dose of just one ten-thousandth of a gramme can make the difference between a "normal" child and a cretin.

Iodine deficiency is the single greatest cause of pre-

ventable intellectual impairment in the world today and China, despite its booming economy, is the highest sufferer. An estimated 425 million Chinese people are at risk from Iodine Deficiency Diseases (IDD), accounting for some 40 per cent of all those at risk in the world. These people live in areas where the natural iodine has been leached out of the farming ground but where none of the simple and cheap alternatives, such as the artificial iodisation of table salt, have been taken to prevent IDD.

At its worst, IDD causes severe mental retardation known as cretinism, dwarfism, or the tell-tale huge disfiguring goitres on people's necks. Other serious results include less severe mental retardation, congenital deformities, miscarriages, and deafness. About 80 per cent of China's mentally disabled people are in fact thought to be victims of IDD.

Chinese medical texts dating back to the 3rd century BC refer to cases of IDD. These days it is estimated that about 7 million Chinese suffer from very serious goitre, 200,000 are cretins, and at least 8 million are sub-cretins. The real scale of the problem is far more



Cretinism is its worst manifestation. Dwarfism is another. More common are the disfiguring goitres, such as those pictured here, to be found on 7 million Chinese. They are all caused by iodine deficiency. Beijing is looking to protect the next generation by treating salt. Teresa Poole reports

extensive, however, because scores of millions have sub-clinical symptoms that go unnoticed but which are accompanied by significant intellectual impairment. Scientists now accept that

sub-clinical IDD causes a drop of 10 to 15 IQ points among children otherwise categorised as "normal." Six million Chinese babies are born in endemic IDD areas each year, a potential

loss of 60 million IQ points, says Farid Rahman, of the United Nations Children's Fund in China. "It is no longer a health problem, it becomes a development issue," he added.

The Chinese government agrees. Gao Shufen, director of the Department for Control of Endemic Diseases, at the Ministry of Public Health, said the sub-clinical prevalence of IDD

was "very serious." She added: "People have only recently become aware of this. What is at stake for China is the next generation." Not only those in remote rural areas are vulnerable to "big-neck illness." Last year a survey of 12,000 children aged 7 to 14 in Miyun County, two hours' drive from Beijing, showed that the goitre rate has risen from 1 per cent in 1988 to 6 per cent.

Sichuan province in Western China is the worst-hit area. Deng Jiayun, at the province's Research Institute of Endemic Diseases, described visiting some counties about 200 miles from the provincial capital, Chengdu: "Some people have goitres the size of a fist. In some villages you can see the people who suffer these diseases everywhere, especially women and young children." In some regions, about 40 per cent of 7 to 14-year-olds were suffering from IDD.

The government target is to wipe out IDD by the year 2000. Before, the strategy was to target the worst areas. Now, realising the hidden costs of IDD, a broader approach has been adopted.

The most important target, agreed last autumn, is iodisation of all China's edible

salt by 1996, requiring a complete overhaul of the salt industry. At present less than half of salt has added iodine, and much of that is iodised in a slipshod way. A survey this month found that nearly half the samples of salt taken across 10 provinces failed the iodine test.

Ironically, under the former strictly centrally planned economy it would have been easier to enforce existing regulations that say edible salt must contain iodine. About 30 big state companies still account for three-quarters of China's salt production, but economic reform has meant more than 500 other state enterprises and 1,500 township and village cooperatives are also producing salt for human, animal or industrial use, all of which is difficult to monitor and track. People buy this locally produced, non-iodised salt because it is cheaper.

However, a new problem is that non-iodine salt is finding its way into salt packages falsely labelled as iodised. So the latest campaign was to teach people how to identify fake from real iodised salt — The Independent.

Overzealous gene may play early role in breast cancer

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Scientists have identified a gene that might play an early role in producing breast cancer, a finding that might lead to ways to prevent such cancers.

Scientists found that the gene was frequently overactive in early breast cancers, but only rarely so in non-cancerous breast abnormalities.

If further research shows that the overactivity promotes breast cancer, drugs aimed at slowing it down

may prevent some breast cancers in women at high risk, said researcher Dr. David Page.

The finding may also eventually lead to a test to tell whether certain microscopic breast abnormalities signal a particularly high risk of breast cancer later on, Dr. Page said. That could allow preventive treatment, he said.

The work is presented in the December issue of the journal *Nature Medicine* by Patricia Steeg of the National Cancer Institute, Dr. Page of the Vanderbilt University School of

Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee and others.

The gene tells cells how to produce a protein called cyclin D. The protein is one of several that tell cells to produce an extra set of genetic material to be passed along when the cell divides into two. It may also have other jobs, Dr. Steeg said.

The researchers looked at an indicator of the gene's activity in 94 breast abnormalities that had been removed in biopsies. They found that the gene had been overactive in only 18 per cent of noncancerous

lesions.

In contrast, overactivity appeared in 76 per cent of one kind of early breast cancer and 87 per cent of a different early kind, and 83 per cent of samples from full-blown, life-threatening breast cancer.

Dr. Steeg cautioned that scientists have not yet shown whether the overactivity actually encourages breast cancer. Nor have women been followed over time to see if overactivity in certain lesions signals an elevated risk of breast cancer later, she said.

Michael Milken's quest: Cure prostate cancer before it kills him

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press

BOSTON — One very bad day almost three years ago, Michael Milken learned he had prostate cancer.

It was the very day he got out of the Vinewood Community Correctional Centre, a shabby halfway house in Los Angeles where he finished up his two-year prison stretch for securities fraud. He had paid \$1.1 billion in fines and civil settlements. He was banned for life from the securities business. His name was a synonym for '80s greed.

Now this. Soon, he would learn just how much worse things could get. The cancer had already spread away from his prostate gland. It was an especially aggressive form and too late for surgery. At this stage, the cancer was incurable.

His doctor told him there was about a 30 per cent chance he'd be dead within two years.

He was 46. Three months later, Mr. Milken knew what he wanted. He went to a conference of urologists in San Antonio, Texas, and invited Dr. Patrick Walsh of Johns Hopkins University, perhaps the best-known prostate surgeon in the country, and some other high-name specialists to a 6 a.m. breakfast.

What he proposed was an all-out project to cure advanced prostate cancer. Mr. Milken asked the doctors to come up with their best ideas, and he'd do the rest. He'd supply the money; he'd get rid of the paper work.

"Our feeling was: Let's go out and recruit great thinkers who might be able to help us and ask them to work for a year or more on cancer," Mr. Milken said in a recent interview. "We wanted to see what we could do in a few years, not a few decades."

Some hesitated at first. This was, after all, the man the media call "the disgraced junk bond king." Did they really want to link their reputations to his?

In time, many did. In a dozen interviews, researchers told of being impressed by Mr. Milken's determination, his intensity, his intellect. And, of course, his money: Mr. Milken's fortune has been estimated at \$550 million.

Since that meeting in May 1993, Mr. Milken has founded a prostate cancer foundation. He has spent \$20 million of his own money on research. He has attracted some of the superstars of science to his problem. And he has, to hear the experts tell it, literally galvanized the field of advanced prostate cancer.

Certainly other rich people have made grand donations to study the ills that afflict them. In October, for example, industrialist Jon M. Huntsman Sr., who has had prostate and mouth cancer, pledged \$100 million to the University of Utah to study cancer genetics. But no one in science can remember anything quite like Mr. Milken's attempt to vitalise and lead the nation's effort to control his own disease.

His new organisation, called Cap Cure, the Association for the Cure of Cancer of the Prostate, based in Santa Monica, California, is now the United States' second

biggest sponsor of prostate research, behind the National Cancer Institute.

Many of those who have spent their careers on this disease quietly doubt that Mr. Milken's Manhattan project will succeed in time to help him. Yet they seem dazzled by the way one determined wealthy patient has refocused their field.

Dr. Howard Scher of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York calls Cap Cure's accomplishments "nothing short of miraculous."

"The energy that they have drawn to the field and the scope of the people they have attracted are unparalleled," he said.

When Mr. Milken began investigating his disease, he found a research backwater. Prostate cancer kills 40,000 men annually in the United States, almost as many victims as breast cancer, but with little of its scientific or political cachet. At last May's meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, for instance, there were 112 reports on breast cancer, compared to 37 on prostate cancer.

"It was not seen as an interesting disease, because it only occurs in old men," said Dr. Harmon Eyre, the cancer society's research director. "There were no ideas about the cause. There was confusion about the treatment. And there were no new insights into what should be done in research. Then along come Bob Dole and Michael Milken."

Senator Dole, a prostate cancer survivor, helped pass legislation that has doubled National Cancer Institute spending on prostate cancer since 1992. This year's bud-

get is \$50 million, compared with \$313 million for breast cancer.

However, Dr. Stuart Holden, who is Mr. Milken's personal urologist at Cedars Sinai Medical Centre in Los Angeles and Cap Cure's medical director, said he and Mr. Milken believe the problems with prostate research go beyond money.

"We tried to see where the stumbling blocks were," he said.

One of the biggest was red tape. Getting money from the National Cancer Institute has turned into an almost full-time job for many senior researchers. Writing a proposal, revising it and waiting for a decision easily can take a year.

But Cap Cure is looking for brilliant ideas, ones that have no chance of backing from the Cancer Institute. It asks for a three-to-five-page proposal and promises a quick answer.

"If I have a good idea, I write a five-page grant proposal instead of a 25- or 50-page one. It gets reviewed within six weeks, and the check is on my desk within a couple of months of when I wrote it," said Dr. William Catalona of Washington University.

In 1993, Cap Cure got 85 requests and funded 30 of them. In 1994, there were 265 requests; it funded 46. This year, 529 researchers from around the world came to Cap Cure for research support, and it is backing 62.

The money has gone largely to the country's premier research institutions, such as Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Stanford, even the National Cancer Institute.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ALL MINE
By Frances Burton

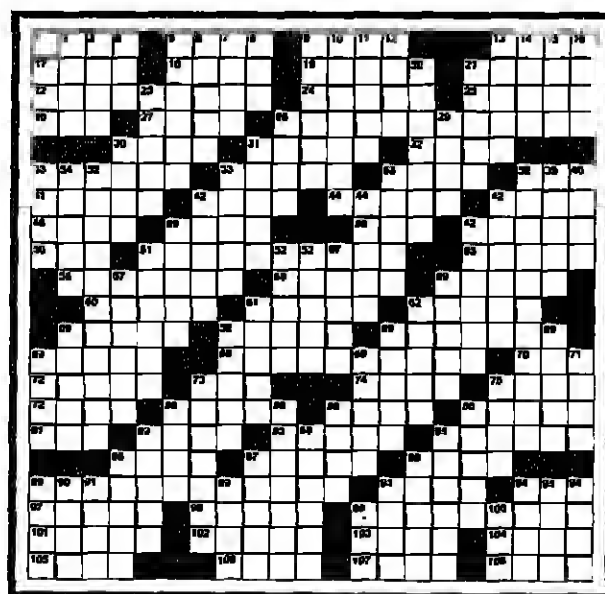
ACROSS
1 Information
8 Breathing sound
9 Radio structure
10 Herring
17 Oil lamp
18 Salt to
19 Incomprehensible
21 — it red
22 Actor's last
23 Susan Lund role
25 Edgar — Poe
26 Alternative vote
27 With proficiency
28 Gopher's
29 Playwright
30 F'd of pain
31 Lateral lobe
32 School on the
33 Part of a sonnet
34 Celtic name

DOWN
1 Artistic movement
2 Out of town
3 Contractor of
4 — mine
5 Warren occupied
6 Creted
7 Cuban premier
8 Lachrymose
9 Takes on oath
10 Airways by
11 Lenses
12 —
13 Ware together
14 Frame of a ship
15 Good on an Arab
16 Headless
17 Country
18 Across a bay
19 Laid out
20 Laid out
21 Laid out
22 Laid out

Diagramless, 19 x 19
By Harold B. Counts

ACROSS
1 River delta
2 Dinosaur
3 Highwayman
4 With all a bit
5 Having lost
6 Short noun
7 Fallow
8 — first
9 Laid out
10 Laid out
11 Laid out
12 Laid out
13 Laid out
14 Laid out
15 Laid out
16 Laid out
17 Laid out
18 Laid out
19 Laid out
20 Laid out
21 Laid out
22 Laid out

DOWN
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9 Laid out
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Last Week's Cryptograms
1. New football left guard blocks kick and gathers in ball to secure touchdowns.
2. "Life is just a bowl of cherries" is how the song goes. But for some people, life can be more like the pits. No joke!
3. Prime preservation subject for politicians is not salvation of the environment but their jobs.
4. Police raid on suspect's dairy farm yielded the incriminating diary they'd sought for so long.

CRYPTOGRAMS
1. GJ LETTRIVASRAZI HVVTRLOHZE GJ
LETTRIVASRAZI GETR OV O SEA'Z
TRIVAS ZEE WHIZ. — By Barbara J. Rugg

2. SMLOVZ YERP SLIP IEOS AHNOO.
DVLNODLY DEAFENMI AOSX VEX BMNF
SON DEAFENMI. — By Ed Huddleston

3. KXUX SUN YHQ YELP UP FAY GAFSVL BY
FV BEN AN UP NUB UG LVQ-PUN KLUX
BUN. — By Diane B. McGony

4. KLOIRSOX UOKLPWINK SATS SNTOPIN
APIJK, FORJU OR TR TNNTO, GILFJI WINO
GOZ SPNRUP JTRISK. — By R.C. Doyle

'Purported aphrodisiacs can be deadly'

ATLANTA (R) — Products sold as aphrodisiacs, often packaged with no instructions for use, warning labels, or lists of ingredients, can be lethal, U.S. federal health officials warned.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said purported aphrodisiacs have claimed the lives of four men in New York City in the past three years.

The products, intended to be applied to the skin, contained digoxin, a heart stimulant obtained from dried foxglove leaves, as well as steroids that have similar effects.

In two of the four cases, the men died of heart problems within 24 hours after ingesting the product, sold as a dark brown cube and marketed under names such as "Love Stone" and "Rock Hard."

Similar products have been seized from suspected drug traffickers in Miami, New York City, Philadelphia and Tampa, Florida, as well in North Carolina and Virginia, the CDC said.

Such products usually escape federal regulation by avoiding making any health claims as to potential benefits.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. No. Canaveral.
2. No, it's a Vitamin B deficiency disease (with a Sinhalese name).
3. No. Per cubic centimetre, it weighs less—fortunately for us.
4. Yes, but not part of the island.
5. No. It's Newf'ndLAND.
6. No. Frogs are amphibious: Only mammals nurse their young.
7. Yes. Consider: "DISPOSSESSES."
8. Yes

PUZZLES

Loop No. 2.

King, Peres hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

hopefully, the results will be successful."

Asked whether he was having problems in his coalition government as he sought to implement the Sept. 28 autonomy accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the one hand and to expand the mandate of his government by expanding the coalition, Mr. Peres said the two issues were distinctly separate.

"There will not be a 'trade' between the two issues," he said, adding, "We want a wider (government) coalition in support of peace and not a wider coalition instead of peace."

Replying to a question by an Israeli journalist on how he felt about the peace process on the eve of the end of the 30-day mourning period for Mr. Rabin, the King described the assassinated prime minister as a soldier of peace.

"The peace process is pursued with determination in order to reach the noble goals sought by my friend Rabin, who fell while trying to achieve them," said the King. "We will remain on the same path."

Asked whether Wednesday's talks covered snags that were holding up the signing of pending bilateral agreements, particularly an accord on cooperation in transport, the King said "there are no problems" in this regard, indicating that the snags were removed. He did not say when the agreement would be signed.

Jordan and Israel have already signed about 10 agreements on cooperation in various spheres after the Oct. 24, 1994 peace treaty was formalised. However, the pending transport accord is seen as key to facilitate the implementation of most other accords, particularly those related to trade and agriculture.

The King's talks with Mr. Peres were attended by Prime Minister Shaul Mofaz, Ben Shimon, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Transport Minister Samir Kassar, Jordanian Ambassador to Israel Marwan Muasher and Israeli Ambassador to Jordan Shimon Shamir and other senior officials.

At the brief encounter with the press after the talks, Mr. Peres declined comment on Syria's role in Lebanon and the Syrian influence in Lebanese options to pursue peace talks with Israel. "We are now negotiating, I cannot offer a volunteered comment on this issue," he said.

The Israeli prime minister side-stepped a question on how he viewed the impact of a possible Israeli-American defence accord on the peace negotiations. "The entire region has to be pacified," he said.

Mr. Peres, who said on Monday that the proposed accord depends on "how it is done, its conditions, and its timing," is expected to raise the issue when he meets President Clinton at the White House this week. "Whether the United States is willing or not needs to be checked out," he said Monday.

According to analysts, entering a defence accord with the United States could help Mr. Peres ally fears expressed by Israelis that he was compromising on some of the demands made by Mr. Rabin in return for Israeli withdrawal from Golan Heights. These included setting up Israeli early warning stations on the Golan Heights, a demand that Syria has rejected.

The analysts pointed out that a defence pact with the U.S. could send a strong message to the Israeli public that the "security" of the state of Israel was now a responsibility of the United States, and, as such, the military arrangements demanded by Mr. Rabin on the Golan were no longer as important as they were in the absence of such facilities.

This in turn could free Mr. Peres' hands in negotiating with Syria, which is demanding no military preconditions, the analysts said.

Israeli military generals who believe in "Israel fighting its own wars" and the government, which believes

some compromises would have to be made with Syria, do not necessarily share the same view over a defence agreement with the U.S., according to Israeli media reports.

Agencies add: Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak proposed to Syria on Wednesday a full range of talks to reach a peace treaty and an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

"The discussions should cover all concerned issues: a normalisation of relations, the nature of the peace, security arrangements and the size of a withdrawal (from the Golan)," Mr. Barak said on Israel Radio.

Mr. Barak said any breakthrough in talks with Syria would have to await until Mr. Peres presents new initiatives to President Clinton in Washington.

Mr. Barak attended a meeting Tuesday with Mr. Peres and U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, who arrived from talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Ross, leading a new U.S. initiative to reach a breakthrough, said on Israel Radio Wednesday that the "two countries were serious in their desire to reach a peace accord as rapidly as possible."

Mr. Barak said Tuesday that "between now and four to six weeks, Israel will know if Syria has agreed to resume the negotiations."

"The ground is ripe for progress to be made and peace is in the interests of the two countries," he said.

Mr. Peres said Tuesday that the signing of a peace treaty with Syria would result in the signing of similar accords with numerous other Arab countries.

"The signing of a peace with Syria would signify the end of Middle East war and... other Arab countries would enter into full and complete relations with Israel," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres also said Tuesday he hopes to make peace with Syria before reaching a permanent settlement with the Palestinians.

"When we are negotiating with the Palestinians... our negotiating position will be better off if we shall not have the Syrian issue remaining," Mr. Peres said, addressing representatives of world Jewry.

"I everything will be closed (with Syria) it will make the end of the negotiations with the Palestinians a much more comfortable and promising occasion."

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is planning to arrive in the region in mid-December, reports said. Uri Savit, Israel's peace coordinator, said the Americans are convinced Syria seeks a peace deal but were still unclear on the specifics. Israel TV said Mr. Peres is seeking "continuous" and serious negotiations aimed at reaching a breakthrough in six months.

Israel wants to change the format of the talks, saying this is the only way a peace treaty can be reached by spring, before the start of Israel's election campaign.

Under the Israeli proposal, reported in the Davar Rishon daily Tuesday, Mr. Peres and Mr. Assad would hold several summit meetings. An American-Israeli-Syrian headquarters would be established, possibly in Nicosia, to manage the talks.

Several teams would hold parallel negotiations on different issues, including security arrangements, the extent of an Israeli troop withdrawal and the nature of peace between the two countries. The talks would go on without breaks.

More senior officials, possible the two countries' foreign ministers, would be involved in day-to-day negotiations.

Until now, the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors to Washington have conducted the talks. Twice, senior military officers met to discuss security arrangements on the Golan.

Israel to free

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians in East Jerusalem have registered to vote for historic self-rule elections next month.

Faisal Hussein, the Palestinian minister overseeing Jerusalem issues, said that only 39,000 out of 80,000 eligible voters had registered for the Jan. 20 elections.

The head of the Palestinian Election Commission, Saeb Erakat, said Sunday that more than 70,000 Palestinians in East Jerusalem had registered to vote.

Rabin killing deepens divisions in Israel

By Robert Mahoney
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Yigal Amir bad God and a gun. With these he justified and executed the murder of Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"It was not only my finger that pulled the trigger but the entire nation which for 2,000 years dreamed about this country and spilled its blood for it," Amir declared in court. He had acted with God, he said.

But instead of rallying the country, Amir has spun Israelis into a vortex of self-doubt and recrimination, widening the rift between left and right, secular and religious. Israel has never been so divided.

"My work of over 35 years in the rabbinate is almost destroyed," laments Chief Rabbi Israel Lau.

"(Amir) killed all my efforts to build a bridge between the two sects in Israeli society — the religious one and the secular one," Rabbi Lau told Reuters.

The largely secular left blames the right for encouraging Amir. The right wing cries foul, saying that only a handful of extremists, not the legitimate opposition, is responsible.

Some blame Amir's religious education. Amir believed that God promised the West Bank to Jews who

should settle and hold it, with force if necessary. Rabin's peace deal with the PLO threatened that heritage.

"We see that hashem, God, promised the land of Israel to the nation of Israel. We do believe in that. He did study that part here," said Rabbi Avraham Rivlin, dean of the Yeshivat Kerem de Yavne, the religious college where Amir combined army service and religious studies.

"Nevertheless, surely, he studied as well that 'Lo Tirtzach', 'Do not kill, do not murder', is one of the 10 commandments and something got wrong in the level, he put the land above the commandment of 'Lo Tirtzach'," Mr. Rivlin told Reuters. "Where did he take it from. I will never know."

Left-wingers think they have the answer. They blame a small band of settler-rabbis for incitement against Rabin, and accuse the whole right wing of acquiescing in these attacks.

Likud opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu addressed rallies, particularly in the charged atmosphere after Islamic suicide bombings, where Rabin was called a traitor and depicted in Arab head-dresses. At one he was shown as a Nazi SS trooper, the perpetrators of the holocaust.



Yigal Amir, the assassin of Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin

"Every Friday afternoon, there were people coming here, on a regular basis, yelling 'traitor, killer'," recalls Leah Rabin, widow of the prime minister, at her Tel Aviv apartment.

"The last Friday was the worst. I returned, came out of my car, as they said, 'yes, yes, wait, in another year we will kill you, we will hang you. You remember Mussolini's mistress, that's the way we will treat you'. But not one Friday, I thought to myself, how can the people of the street

support something like this and keep quiet and silent?" she told Reuters.

"I'm not going to address myself to Mrs. Rabin," replies Mr. Netanyahu. "We have a saying, 'we don't judge a person in his grief.'"

"As far as the others are concerned, it's a shame that people, politicians, are trying to cynically manipulate now a national tragedy in order to besmirch an entire camp, half of the public, and to try to make a political game and stifle de-

bate," he told Reuters.

That debate now focuses on rabbis who told soldiers like Amir, that Jewish law, halacha, allowed them to disobey army orders to evacuate West Bank bases. Police are now questioning some of these rabbis about their rulings.

Ehud Sprinzak, a political science professor who studies Right-wing Jewish groups, said the settlers and their spiritual and ideological mentors were panicked by the pace of the hand-over of the West Bank to Palestinian self-rule.

"Without the rabbis issuing several balachic rulings, without the entire atmosphere changing into hysteria, psycho-drama, and panic, I'm sure that Amir would not act on his own," Mr. Sprinzak told Reuters.

Amir's background is familiar to Lieutenant-Colonel Micha Reggev. He came up through the same system, but abandoned the ideology although he still believes some settlements should stay in the West Bank.

"Yigal Amir learnt in the army to fight, and in the Yeshiva de Yavne he learned crazy ideology, and he mixed these two things and made himself a killer," Mr. Reggev told Reuters.

He said he warned Rabin personally last year about

Jewish extremism.

There were many in the colleges who shared Amir's messianic ideology of redeeming the land, but only a handful who were prepared to kill for it, Mr. Reggev said.

"I will not say that all these thousands are potential killers but hundreds of them might be potential killers," said Shimon Romah, a former Shin Bet security service chief in the West Bank.

Some left-wingers believe Amir may ironically have strengthened the peace process and cost Likud the next election. They also hope it could help resolve the settlement issue, the subject of Israeli-PLO negotiations beginning next May.

"Before the assassination I was absolutely sure that the withdrawal from the West Bank will not be so easy and there will be some shooting involved between the government side and the settlers. Now I'm a little bit more optimistic," said Mr. Romah.

But then he remembers the hardcore: "These few hundreds, by my estimation, they are willing to shoot a prime minister or any minister, they will be in a position to shoot even their friends or their brothers" in the Israeli army.

"It might be civil war, but on a smaller scale," he said.

China battle-ready in war of nerves with Taiwan

By Philippe Massonnet
Agence-France Presse

BEIJING — China has again demonstrated its ability to carry out a threat to invade Taiwan with military exercises seen as a blatant attempt to swing voters ahead of parliamentary elections on the nationalist island.

Chinese political and military leaders have repeatedly said they will order an invasion if Taiwan makes a serious move to formally split from the mainland.

The latest sabre rattling — manoeuvres staged on Fujian province, just opposite Taiwan — came a week ahead of the first of two crucial elections for Taiwan

voters.

Saturday's main evening television news showed a virtual invasion rehearsal: blanket missile firing, huge manoeuvres backed by warplanes and helicopters, amphibious vehicles landing on beaches, troops being parachuted into a mock battle.

Sunday's newspapers unanimously made the war games their front-page lead.

The message was clear. "These exercises again showed the determination and capacity of the army to safeguard the sovereignty and integrity of the state, defend the unity of the motherland, and accomplish the sacred mission given by the Communist

Party and the people," declared the Liberation Army Daily.

China and Taiwan have been separated by their rival claims to sovereignty since the end of the civil war in 1949. Beijing has always considered the nationalist island a renegade province waiting to rejoin the motherland.

But the mainland has repeatedly staged military exercises in Taiwan's vicinity this year to show its anger at what it considers moves by the nationalists to move their growing economic power as a launching pad to complete independence.

On Oct. 18, news programmes showed President Jiang Zemin, who is also chairman of the Central

Military Commission, watching ground and sea exercises.

The Taiwan bourse went temporarily haywire after other war games in July and August. Those exercises were to warn Taiwan after its president, Lee Teng-Hui, went to the United States for a private visit that earned him massive publicity.

But a Western expert commented that "the pictures broadcast on Saturday showed more landing exercises than the other times."

"The October manoeuvres, which were not near Taiwan, were intended to show the capacity of the army and its loyalty to Jiang Zemin," the expert said. "This time the exercises

were just as much intended to scare Taiwan."

China is giving out a serious warning to those Taiwanese leaders tempted by secession, to pro-independence parties — and a general warning to the island's population ahead of the elections next Saturday, analysts said.

Next March will be an even more important poll when universal suffrage presidential elections are staged for the first time. Mr. Lee, a favourite target for Beijing's attacks, is a candidate.

As leader of the ruling Kuomintang, Mr. Lee insists he supports the party's traditional stance in favour of reunification. But his in-

creasing number of semi-official trips overseas, to boost Taiwan's image on the international stage, seriously annoy China.

The anger of Chinese leaders boiled over with Mr. Lee's trip to the United States. The military exercises were to warn Taiwan, while Washington was given a stern warning with a series of diplomatic measures.

Observers expect more displays of military muscle in Taiwan's direction in coming months. Such action not only warns the nationalists, but it also reinforces Mr. Jiang's image as the natural and strong successor to ailing patriarch Deng Xiaoping.

GCC tough on extremism

(Continued from page 1)

were imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The statement after last year's summit was more conciliatory toward Iraq, saying its recognition of Kuwait was a step in the right direction.

Gulf states also expressed deep concern over the increase in "terrorist attacks" in the region, and urged "all GCC states to oppose (terrorism) firmly and with all means."

They strongly condemned the Nov. 13 car-bombing in Riyadh which blew up a U.S. building used to train the Saudi National Guard, killing seven people.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, who has been in the hospital since last Thursday, missed the summit for the first time and was represented instead by Crown Prince Abdullah.

Qatar's boycott of the closing session of the conclave exposed the cracks that have riven the 14-year-old alliance. Senior GCC officials who did not want to be identified further said Qatar had threatened to withdraw from the council.

Territorial disputes among member countries, differences over relations with Iran and Iraq, and the extent of trade ties with Israel have added to the fragility of the alliance.

At the airport, Sheikh Hamad grimly shook hands with his host, Sultan Qaboos of Oman, before hurriedly boarding his aircraft to fly home.

The final communique, delivered by Qatar's seat vacant around the round table, made no mention of the 5,000-strong joint defence force that the alliance has been trying to bolster ever since the 1991 Gulf war. That indicated there was no progress on the single new issue that promised to emerge from the alliance's 10th summit.

The summit began badly for Sheikh Hamadi; the former Emir, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, wrote to the conference, vowing to

return to power. The letter embarrassed the Qataris, but had nothing to do with the walkout decision, officials said.

Sheikh Hamad met for two hours on Wednesday with Sheikh Isa for what summit delegates described as their first serious discussion to try to resolve a longstanding border dispute.

The only others present were their foreign ministers, delegates said.

"It seems they had the first serious discussion on the (disputed) islands," one GCC delegate told Reuters.

Sheikh Hamad and Sheikh Isa met publicly on Monday.

They are locked in a dispute over a cluster of Gulf islands and reefs potentially rich in oil and gas deposits. They have previously exchanged bitter accusations over the issue, which led to a military clash nearly 10 years ago.

After the failure of inter-GCC and other mediation efforts, Qatar unilaterally referred the dispute to the International Court of Justice which could announce a verdict by late 1996.

Bahrain was rejected the court's jurisdiction over the dispute and Qatar has said it would withdraw the case if the two sides reached an out of court settlement.

Inter-GCC border disputes, described as "time bombs" by Sheikh Hamad, were removed from the summit's agenda because some members said bilateral talks rather than collective forums were the appropriate vehicle for reaching settlements.

The alliance's final declaration voiced strong condemnation of terrorism and stressed "the intensification of contact among member-states... and their insistence on exerting all efforts with the aim of confronting these destructive terrorist practices..."

It said the GCC "will lay plans and joint strategies to confront and foil conspiratorial plots" to safeguard their states.

King Fahd receives visitors

(Continued from page 1)

Prince Abdullah, was standing in for him.

Saudi officials said the king's health was "reassuring" after a U.S. medical team flown in from the United States examined him on Friday and Saturday.

In Washington on Tuesday, the U.S. State Department quoted Saudi authorities as saying the king is "doing well."

Five killed in South Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

One of the three pro-Israeli militiamen wounded in the attack was said to be in serious condition and he was evacuated to Israel by helicopter.

Security source said guerrillas rained mortar shells on Sojod, a key outpost commanding access to the central sector of the zone.

At the same time another SLA position in Qantara, about 15 kilometres (nine miles) away, was also the target of artillery bombard-

"We continue to talk to Saudi authorities obviously about his health and other issues," spokesman Glyn Davies said. "We are heartened by the news that the authorities are putting out that he is doing well."

The king's condition was closely watched in Washington because of Saudi Arabia's importance as the world's largest oil producer and possessor of a quarter of the world oil reserves.

ment. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The violence came as U.S. envoy Dennis Ross held talks in Syria and Israel in an attempt to reactivate stalled talks between the two powerful Middle East adversaries.

Syria is the undisputed master of Lebanon. It has said it would do nothing to rein in guerrillas in South Lebanon before Israel agrees to withdraw its troops from the border enclave, which was created in 1985, and also from Syrian territory seized in the 1967 war.

Clinton secures key backing

(Continued from page 1)

implement the accord signed Nov. 21 near Dayton, Ohio, by Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia.

"It is clear the implementation of the Dayton agreement needs to be done with sensitivity to the needs of the parties and certainly that will be taken into account," Mr. Christopher said at a joint news conference with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei V. Kozyrev.

Serbs living in suburbs of Sarajevo due to be put under Muslim control are angered by the arrangement and French officers responsible for security in the area have warned that forcing the Serbs to yield could lead to an explosion. British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind on Tuesday said some "practical measures" could be taken without renegotiating the agreement set for signing

Dec. 14 in Paris.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees is opening an office in Serb-controlled Ilica in western Sarajevo. The U.N. agency fears a mass exodus from the Serb areas after the city is placed under sole control of the Muslim-led Bosnian government.

Mr. Christopher until now has dealt with Serb objections by insisting the accord initiated at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, would not be revised. He also has stressed that the Bosnian Serbs had authorised Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to negotiate for them.

His remarks Wednesday in response to a reporter's question to Mr. Kozyrev may signal the London conference will make adjustments in the peace enforcement plan

GCC oil income may rise in 1995

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Six Arab Gulf states will likely earn more from crude oil exports in 1995 than last year due to a price improvement caused by strong world demand, the state-run Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB) has said.

The income of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which controls around 45 per cent of the world's oil, will grow by nearly 10 per cent to \$77 billion in 1995 from \$70 billion in 1994, the bank said in a study.

Revenues of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are also expected to rise by 10 per cent to \$141 billion from \$128 billion.

The study gave no explanation for the higher revenue but EIB experts said they based their projections on an increase in crude prices to an average of \$17 a barrel in 1995 compared with around \$15.50 in 1994.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and non-OPEC Bahrain and Oman — produced nearly 13 million barrels per day (b/d) of oil in 1995, almost the same level as 1994.

The six members have been hard hit by low oil prices that have slashed their earnings from more than \$150 billion a year in the early 1980s.

After enjoying large financial surpluses, most of them are now suffering from sharp deficits in their budgets and balances of payments while their economies have either slowed down or recorded negative growth rates.

Gulf states and other OPEC producers have counted on a steady growth in global crude demand to make up for part of the loss but the bulk of the increase has been met by independent producers.

EIB said a decision by OPEC to extend its official output ceiling of 24.52 million b/d for the first half of 1996 would help stabilise the market. It noted demand would grow by 1.6 million b/d to 71.2 million b/d in 1996.

"If these projections by the International Energy Agency came true, then oil prices will firm up next year," it said. "But this depends on OPEC's compliance with its production quotas and cooperation by other producers."

Israel said planning budget cuts, lower interest rates

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said Wednesday the government would not make cuts in the 1996 budget before it is approved by the Israeli Knesset later this month.

"In the current circumstances, the first priority is not to open the budget, but to make sure the budget is what the government asked for in the Knesset," Mr. Shohat said.

"There is pressure to enlarge the budget, not just from members of Knesset but from the different ministries," he was quoted by his office as saying in a speech to ministry officials.

A finance ministry official said there was concern that proposing budget cuts would open a Pandora's box, inviting special interest groups to push requests for increases as well as cuts and slowing down the approval process.

The official said, however, that Mr. Shohat said he will consider an "adjustment" next year after the 1995 results are in and the ministry had time to consider requests for increases from the defence and internal security

ministries, an official said. Israel media reports, however, have suggested Prime Minister Shimon Peres' government was debating a series of budget cuts and a lowering of interest rates which could trigger a devaluation of the shekel and spur imports.

The daily Haaretz said the finance ministry had developed plans to make 1.5 billion shekels (about \$500 million) worth of cuts in the 1996 budget, including an across-the-board paring of two per cent from each ministry.

The newspaper reported such a cut would enable the central bank to trim one to two per cent from the current prime lending rate of 14.2 per cent. That in turn would trigger a devaluation of three to four per cent.

The finance ministry said there was no basis to the report.

However, an official in Peres' office said there were discussions about a budget cut and a lowering of interest rates although precise figures had not been agreed.

It was hoped that such a move would trigger a de-

valuation of the shekel against the dollar, which has long been pegged at three shekels to the dollar, said the official.

The official who demanded anonymity stressed that the government would make no move to force the shekel down but that a decline would be expected to follow naturally from a budget cut.

The government must get the 175 billion shekel (\$56 billion) budget approved by Israel's 120-seat Knesset by the end of December. The official in the prime minister's office echoed the finance ministry's position that at least some cuts could come after the budget was approved.

"We can change it after the approval as we did early in 1995," the official said.

Israeli manufacturers have been pressing for a cut in interest rates and a devaluation to stimulate exports. Israel's trade deficit this year is projected to reach a record \$12 billion.

Wheat prices soar as EU export ban rocks

PARIS (R) — Wheat prices are rising again after the European Union (EU) closed the back door on its wheat exports, unleashing a scramble by traders to avoid defaulting on sales to North Africa, grain traders said Wednesday.

The EU's decision late Tuesday to prevent food firms avoiding restrictions on exports by using an emergency procedure sent buyers flooding into the Chicago futures pits and pushed wheat prices back up towards 15-year highs.

The decision, seen as an important policy shift by a key supplier, caught investors napping as they tried to take profits on recent price gains brought about by low stocks.

Chicago December futures closed nearly 10 cents a bushel or two per cent higher at \$5.04 per bushel Tuesday.

Europe was in bullish mood Wednesday morning, with opening gains of around one per cent, traders said.

"We are looking at a couple of dollars more this morning," on top of wheat prices

around \$200 per tonne, one trader said.

Grain firms who pledged to sell 200,000 tonnes of French wheat to Morocco last week must now find alternatives, forcing up prices for grain sold by other exporters, traders said.

The EU's Brussels executive has been tussling with grain markets for months to spare its own consumers from the price rises by restricting the amount of wheat available for export.

Turning 20 years of grain policies on their head, Brussels stopped paying out subsidies to help farmers export wheat and threatened to replace taxpayers' assistance with an export tax.

To help its consumers, Brussels wants to see European grain costing less than supplies on the world market after at least a decade when it cost considerably more.

But the policy failed to work as traders found they could still turn a profit by selling unsubsidised EU wheat to importers who have queued up to buy at almost

any price. Morocco needs around 300,000 tonnes a month to make up for a drought which wiped out half its agricultural output this year.

Egypt, Algeria and others have been regular buyers.

The European Commission, which had tolerated limited sales without subsidy to traditional customers, abruptly vetoed the sales Tuesday night.

European officials said the decision was a deliberate shift in export policy, a signal which was not lost on the traders.

"The Brussels guys are showing us they think the general price level in the European Union is much too high and they are determined to bring it down," a leading grain trader said.

Expensive grain stokes inflation by feeding into bread, meat and dairy prices and encourages livestock farmers to ditch grain for alternatives, setting up a return to past grain surpluses.

ANNOUNCEMENT JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY TENDER NO. 114/95 132 AND 33KV SWITCHGEAR, 33KV CAPACITOR BANKS AND ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT FOR TAREQ 132/33KV SUBSTATION

Jordan Electricity Authority announces the availability of tender documents for Tender No. 114/95 for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply C&F Aqaba and guarantee of 132kv & 33kv Switchgear, 33kv Capacitor Banks and Ancillary Equipment for establishment of Tareq 132/33kv substation.

Contractors who are interested to participate in this tender can obtain the tender documents from the Tenders Department at JEA-Main Building (located between the 6th & 7th circles, Jabal Amman) starting from Tuesday 5.12.1995 against a non-refundable amount of JD300 for each set of Tender Document.

Bids to be submitted to the secretary of tendering committee at the above address not later than 12.00 noon of Monday, 26.12.1995.

A bid bond equal to a Hundred Thousand Jordanian Dinars should be accompanied with the offer.

Director General
Dipl. Eng. M.S. Arafah

ANNOUNCEMENT THE CENTRAL BANK OF JORDAN

The Central Bank of Jordan announces that, in conformity with the law of the Central Bank and the bylaw of the issuance of Jordanian Currency No. (11) year 1995, a modified third issue JD 20 banknote will be put in circulation as from Saturday 9/12/1995.

The specifications of the new note are completely the same as the note currently in circulation, except for the following modifications:-

* The phrase "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in Arabic has been added to the front of the note.

* The phrase "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in English has been added to the back.

* The dates (both the Hejira and Gregorian) in Arabic has been placed to the right of the dates in English on the back of the note.

The modified note will circulate alongside the existing note and both shall remain in circulation as legal tender.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"No wonder I can't lose weight! I've got ten million hungry fat cells and only one mouth to say 'no' with!"

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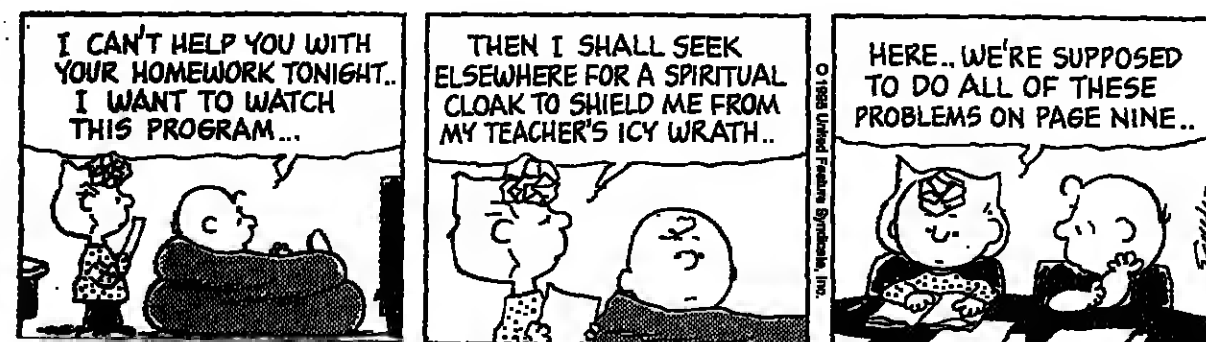
JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.
BOLEN
FHASE
MOABEA
ATVARC
Print answer here:
Yesterday's Jumble: SMOKY FLOUR DENOTE FRACAS
Answer: What the family experienced at Thanksgiving dinner — SAME OLD "STUFF"

THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitten

ACROSS
1 Rod
6 1,101
9 Move quickly
13 Croesus' kingdom
14 Gradual impairment
15 Small liquor glass
16 To pieces
17 City on the Juma
18 Feed the kitty
19 Ends
21 The elected ones
23 "To —, With Love"
24 Diane Sawyer's husband
27 Corn unit
30 Dismissing brutally
31 "the ramparts..."
32 Food regimen
34 Volga feeder
35 Deadly
38 At the right moment
42 City on the Po
43 Coal weight
44 Wrestling style
45 Picnic pest
46 Lahr and Parks
48 Calendar abbr.
49 Early jukebox
52 Mel of baseball
53 Narrow inlet
54 Handsome young men
59 Domestic help
61 British gun
63 Makeup item
64 Baseball family name
65 Props
66 Appellation
67 Unit of force
68 Unit of work
69 Look of derision
DOWN
1 Bed support
2 Kind
3 Hebrew month
4 Company
5 Bluebeard's last wife
6 Ryan of films
7 Concerned
8 Tehran resident
9 Mineral spring
10 Capitalist combination
11 Up to the time that
12 Fabric workers
14 Honolulu beach
20 U.S. president
22 Mock
25 Made into law
26 Race units
27 Blue-pencil
28 Japanese aborigine
29 Withdrawal
33 Ponder
36 Bullets, e.g.
37 Author Unis
39 Stage direction
40 Seoul residents
41 Victorious
46 Stiff straw hat
47 Liquor shots
49 Wanderer
50 Alberto Tomba's land
51 Cotton thread
55 Meat cut
56 Joint sealer
57 Eye flirtatiously
58 Valcinator
60 Owed
62 Urge

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You know how to persevere and be efficient in handling practical matters before lunch today, but later tonight are confused.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't change your procedure during the daytime today since you are actually doing fine. Avoid overspending in the evening.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Handle those personal affairs which are important in the morning today, then be more economical. Pay pressing obligations which come your way.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be with allies who are congenial in the morning today, and later this evening be careful. You do not make any errors in judgement.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Use tact in whatever you have in mind in the morning today for best results in attaining it. Don't pressure others or there could be adversity.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't be tempted to leave the old for the new and untied at this time or you could get into a peck of trouble with those in authority.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be sure you carry through with what you have promised your mate today. Later this evening, avoid one who wants to make radical changes.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be willing to compromise today with a fellow associate who is stubborn, then later this evening you have many tasks to take care of.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Show that you are steady at your career activities and don't do anything today which could alienate a fellow associate.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think about pleasures you have enjoyed today and make arrangements for more of the same in the days ahead, especially with loved ones.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have to be very tactful at home in the morning today so as not to aggravate the situation which exists there. Avoid a demanding person.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get at your desk tasks early this morning and be wise in handling correspondence, telephone calls, etc. Rest at home this evening with loved ones.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Long discussions with those who can help you to gain your finest goals today can bring fine definite results, which can be very beneficial.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a fine day today for studying into the possibilities for adding to your present abundance. Steer clear of a greedy partner.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Early today plan how best to gain your personal aims and desires and then take the right steps. Avoid one who is not conventional.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study every angle of some new course of action today which helps you to get ahead faster, but relax in the evening with close friends and loved ones.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study carefully the ideas presented to you today by a logical thinker and use them in order to improve your position in life for the better.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are able to handle career activities touch better in the business world in the morning. Tonight, use patience at home with your mate.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Garner all the data you can at this time before you commit yourself to some new project, but don't let any doubt creep in.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Study brochures, etc. so that you know how to handle your practical affairs today much better. Be thoughtful to your mate, so there are no disagreements.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you listen to ideas of partners today, there can be greater mutual advancement heading your way. Study trends and know better how to proceed.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can use methods seldom employed and get better results with your career activities today. Obstacles will clear up to your advantage.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a good day today to plan amusements with congenial friends for the days ahead. There is opportunity from inventions.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Plan to get into activities today with your loved ones which they would enjoy the most. Steer clear of gossip in the evening.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon

Jordan Times
Tel: 684311/
699634

Ten Jordanian companies may obtain ISO 9000 by end of 1996

By Khattab Salman
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The number of Jordanian companies expected to be awarded the ISO 9000 quality certificate is expected to reach 10 companies by the end of 1996. According to the Jordan Export Development Corporation (JEDC).

Yihya Tamimi of JEDC told the Jordan Times that about 26 Jordanian companies are now preparing to acquire the international seal of approval, and that by the end of next year nearly seven companies are expected to be awarded the ISO 9000 certificate.

"Until now, only three Jordanian firms were awarded the ISO 9000 certificate, but the number should grow faster to enable Jordanian exports to compete internationally," Mr. Tamimi said.

Eighteen months ago, no Jordanian company had the ISO 9000 certificate, but following a strategic policy, the government has been encouraging local companies to acquire the international certificate.

The latest addition of Jordanian firms being

awarded the certificate is Team International which was recommended on Dec. 4, 1995 by SES Yarsely International to be awarded the ISO 9002 certificate.

"The recommendation was the crowning achievement of eight months of work, and after SES expert assessors conducted a comprehensive audit on the systems and procedures implemented by the Department of Total Quality and Standards at Team International," Maqbouleh Hammoudeh, General Manager told the Jordan Times.

She noted that Team International is the first consulting firm in the Arab World to be awarded the ISO 9002 certificate, and the first Jordanian firm in the service sector to be awarded the quality seal of approval.

The ISO 9002 certificate is part of the ISO series. It is concerned with providing a model for quality assurance in production, installation and servicing.

Ms. Hammoudeh added that Team International is currently offering consultations for eleven Jordanian companies



Maqbouleh Hammoudeh which are now in the process of acquiring ISO 9000 certification.

The manager of the Department of Total Quality and Standards, Hazem Shaheen, said that his certified department assists companies from different sectors to implement the ISO 9000 Quality Systems, to be awarded ISO 9001, 9002, or 9003 certification.

"ISO 9000 standards are not confined to the industrial sector," Mr. Shaheen said. "The service sector, such as banking, medical care, insurance and other orientations can benefit largely by implementing the ISO 9000 standards."

Mr. Tamimi noted that the corporation is now engaged in an ambitious programme in cooperation with the Higher Council for Science and Technology to help Jordanian firms achieve quality standards in order to be awarded the certificate.

"We have presented the terms of reference of a grouping programmes in a collective effort to train a group of Jordanian Companies on how to be awarded the certificate," Ms. Tamimi explained.

"ISO companies applied for the programme and we chose five of them from the foodstuff, textile, metal engineering, and chemical industries in the first stage to initiate the programme in early 1996" Mr. Tamimi added.

Over 70,600 firms were awarded the ISO 9000 certificate with only 340 companies in the Middle East from which 286 companies are Israelis.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JERUSALEM					
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 06/12/1995					
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PRIV. CLOSING PRICE	CHANGING PRICE	INDEX NUMBER
ARAB BANK P.L.C.	340	78990	231.000	233.500	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	29780	57348	4.300	4.270	
BANK OF JORDAN	1200	4893	2.500	2.510	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	850	1812	2.500	2.480	
THE HOUSING BANK	1850	6880	4.700	4.750	
JORDAN CREDIT BANK	8150	8802	1.080	1.080	
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	1000	3750	3.750	3.750	
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	890	2935	3.420	3.480	
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	342	1195	3.500	3.300	
UNITED TRADING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1000	3160	3.160	3.180	
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	19500	17640	0.890	0.900	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	2850	4293	1.540	1.510	
BANKS SECTOR	53702	203467	INDEX NUMBER: 185.12	CHANGE: +0.871	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	35772	64979	1.840	1.840	
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	450	751	1.750	1.730	
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	250	230	0.920	0.920	
ARAB ENTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1300	4354	3.350	3.300	
JORDANIAN REPARATIONS INVESTMENT HOLDING	15000	16480	1.100	1.090	
SARFA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	3450	4095	1.180	1.190	
SERVICES SECTOR	60022	90686	INDEX NUMBER: 123.39	CHANGE: +0.115	
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	5702	19937	3.500	3.490	
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	250	720	2.920	2.900	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1611	15376	9.580	9.080	
JORDAN TRADING	2100	7700	3.660	3.600	
THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	185	558	3.070	3.170	
ARAB INDUSTRIAL & MANUFACTURING	6123	28105	4.520	4.400	
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	1108	6846	6.000	6.000	
JORDAN DAIRY	200	510	2.550	2.580	
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	100	325	3.250	3.300	
THE PUBLIC FINANCIAL	800	1375	1.750	1.750	
ARAB CHEMICAL DETERGENTS INDUSTRIES	6341	71019	11.750	11.200	
SPINNING & WEAVING	500	825	1.650	1.650	
SAFIA INDUSTRIES	200	425	2.120	2.130	
DAR AL DUA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	950	5355	5.650	6.700	
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	2350	13070	5.570	5.140	
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	72000	42718	0.590	0.590	
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	8100	8258	1.350	1.360	
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	7000	980	0.970	0.980	
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	300	890	2.960	2.950	
JORDAN ROPEWORK INDUSTRIES	500	505	1.010	1.010	
JORDAN SUGAR-INDUSTRIES	150	281	1.890	1.810	
ARAB CEMENT FOR FURNACE & CHEMICALS	180	581	3.230	3.230	
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	1600	4629	2.890	2.890	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	9529	18853	1.740	1.790	
JORDAN NEW CEMENT COMPANY	2121	3088	1.490	1.490	
INTERNATIONAL TOWNSHIP & CONSTRUCTION	14500	19070	1.310	1.320	
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRIES	1638	2585	1.590	1.590	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	137756	270660	INDEX NUMBER: 127.19	CHANGE: -0.237	
GRAND TOTAL	291490	564514	INDEX NUMBER: 151.95	CHANGE: +0.447	
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		237555			
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		210242			

Daily

Cabinet allows gifts of West Bank olives, oil

THE CABINET has authorised the entry of olive and olive oil from the West Bank in the form of gifts and for a maximum amount of 50,000 15-litre containers of olives and 50,000 15-litre containers of olive oil. According to the decision, each individual can bring in the Kingdom three containers of oil and three containers of olives, but not more than this (Al Rai).

Government will not change decision on modernising public cars

THE GOVERNMENT does not intend to reconsider the decision to oblige owners of old public cars to trade their vehicles for new ones exempted from customs and other fees and taxes, Customs Department Director-General Nazmi Al Abdallah said. He added that owners of old taxis and service cars should change their cars before the end of the deadline. Mr. Abdallah said that only 90 cars have been traded for new ones since June 6, 1995 when the Cabinet issued the decision. He said that financial strain on most drivers could be the reason for the weak demand to renew old cars, but he added: "The decision will be implemented because we are determined to modernise the public car sector." The decision affects about 14,000 taxi owners who have a period of five years to replace their old cabs (Al Dustour).

ACC expects lending to reach JD 17 million by end of 1995

TOTAL CREDIT extended by the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) from the beginning of this year until the end of October amounted to JD 14 million and the figure is expected to reach JD 17 million by the end of 1995. ACC Director-General Mohammad Abdul Salam Arabiyat said that the total amount of repayments during the first ten months of this year was JD 11.5 million, but by the end of December the figure is expected to climb to JD 16 million. Outstanding farmer credits have reached JD 71 million in 1995 and ACC overall assets have increased to JD 82 million. Mr. Arabiyat said, noting that the corporation's capital which was only JD 7 million in 1960 stands now at JD 24 million, fully paid, with general reserves amounting to JD 3 million.

Mr. Arabiyat revealed a lending plan for the coming three years as the ACC expects increased demand for loans as it is the official source specialised in agricultural lending in the Kingdom. He said the plan envisages extending JD 70 million as follows: JD 20 million in 1996, JD 23 million in 1997 and JD 27 million in 1998. The plan had taken into consideration the return to Jordanian products to traditional Arab Gulf markets and the positive effects expected from the peace accord between Jordan and Israel. Also taken into consideration were higher input prices for agricultural and animal production and increased credits to rural and badia families within the framework of income-generating projects (Al Aswak).

Preparations underway to start survey on living conditions

PRACTICAL STEPS have started to conduct a survey on living conditions on Jordan. According to a senior official at the Department of Statistics, 15 researchers are currently being trained to begin a preliminary trial survey next week on a limited number of Jordanian families. The preliminary survey will last about five days after which, and in light of analysis and review of the results, a future working plan will be structured and the 15 researchers will train another team to conduct the main field survey throughout the Kingdom. The field survey is expected to be completed by the end of January 1996. The main survey will cover 6,000 Jordanian families which will be representative of all groups of the society. The census conducted last year will be the basis for selecting the 6,000 sample families (Al Dustour).

Financial Markets

In co-operation with
Caixa Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 5/12/95	Tokyo Close Date: 6/12/95
Swiss Franc	1.5435	1.5435
Deutsche Mark	1.4385	1.4384
Swiss Franc	1.1655	1.1645
French Franc	4.9520	4.9615
Japanese Yen	101.27	101.42
European Currency Unit	1.5835	1.5842

Source: Reuters

Interbank Bid rates for various currencies U.S. Dollar 1.5435 to 1.5440

Source: Reuters

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Premier League teams return to action today

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Soccer fans and players will be back to their favourite sport when the second leg of the Kingdom's Premier League championship kicks off Thursday.

While standings could change overnight with the close gap most teams have on each other, Al Ramtha top the 12-team standings for now with 24 points. They are closely followed by Al Hussein with 22 points and Kufroum with 20.

A cramped schedule awaits the 12 teams with the upcoming round to be played at Amman, Salt and Irbid stadiums. If weather conditions or unforeseen reasons do not impose postponements, the competition is scheduled to end by mid-February.

While the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) had begun the competition on July 31 so as to conclude it before the start of the winter season which usually affects the schedule and fan attendance, the participation of Al Faisali, Al Wihdat, the Olympic team in matches abroad in addition to the Amman economic summit forced continuous postponements of the schedule forcing it once again to go beyond the end of the year.

In an effort to encourage fair play and weed out violence and friction between players, the JSF has this season cancelled the top scorer award and has instead allocated JD 500 to the player who proves to be the most disciplined.

A total of 176 goals were scored in the 66 matches of the first leg. Eighteen of these were scored by penalties. Looking back at the top goal scorer of each team, well-known strikers like Aref Hussein, Jiryes Tadros, Mohammad Al Ashhab and Mustafa Adam are still low on the list.

A brief look at the 12 teams and their most notable results:

Al Ramtha: The current



Premier League leaders Al Ramtha

The top scorers so far are:

Abdullah Shiyah (Al Hussein)	8 goals
Ibrahim Abdul Hadi (Al Jalil)	6 goals
Riyad Diqes (Al Baqaa)	6 goals
Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib (Ramtha)	5 goals
Khaled Majdalawi (Wihdat)	5 goals
Murad Hassan, Ahmad Rasheed (Al Jazireh) ..	5 goals
Aref Hussein, Mazen Anbar (Al Hussein)	4 goals
Youssef Obaidat (Kufroum)	4 goals
Jiryes Tadros (Al Faisali)	4 goals
Bassam Khatib, Nart Yada (Al Ahli)	4 goals
Mustafa Adam, Ra'ed Tu'meh (Qadissieh)	3 goals
Mohammad Al Ashhab, Mohammad Fahed (Sahab)	2 goals
Wa'el Aqil, Mohammad Joker, Fu'ad Jarwan (Russeifa)	2 goals

leaders, they ended the first leg with only one loss, 1-0 to Al Jazireh. They beat former champions Al Faisali 2-1 and titleholders Al Wihdat 1-0 and were held to draws with Al Ahli, Al Hussein and Kufroum. Al Hussein: Yet to win the prestigious trophy, Al Hussein held on to the lead for most of the first leg. They have the best scoring record at 23-7. Al Hussein's only loss was 1-0 to Al Qadissieh. They were held to draws with Al Faisali and Al Wihdat.

Kufroum: Playing in the Premier League for their second year, Kufroum have delighted their fans with their standing. Their only loss was 1-0 to Al

Hussein. They beat Al Faisali 1-0 and drew with Al Wihdat 2-2.

Al Faisali: The Kingdom's most successful record-breaking team is now in fourth place. Al Faisali lost to Al Ramtha and Kufroum and top striker Jiryes Tadros and others have so far been unsuccessful to make the team get a better standing.

Al Wihdat: The titleholders have displayed a noticeable improvement in their form in their matches at the Arab clubs championship currently under way in Riyadh. Al Wihdat lost 1-0 to Al Ramtha and Al Faisali are now in fifth place.

Al Qadissieh: Their midway standing enable them to im-

prove in the upcoming round. Their most important win was 1-0 over Al Hussein. They remain in the sixth place, one point behind Al Wihdat.

Al Jazireh: They beat Al Ramtha but lost four matches which made them drop out of the top five—a position they held last season. They are now seventh with 15 points.

Al Ahli: The most disappointing of the Premier League teams, Al Ahli are just outside the relegation zone and have failed to advance their standing after

managing only three wins and being held to draws in five matches. Their only wins were over bottom of the list newcomers Jalil, Baqaa and Russeifa.

Al Baqaa: Although their results improved in the final weeks, Al Baqaa are ninth after losing five matches. They held Al Hussein and Kufroum to draw but otherwise need more wins to move out of the final four.

Sahab: While their only win was 2-0 over Al Russeifa, Sahab drew 1-1 with Faisali, Wihdat and Kufroum. They will have a tough fight with Al Baqaa, Al Ahli and any other teams that may get trapped in the relegation zone.

Al Jalil: Their only win was over last placed Russeifa. Their only draw was with Sahab and they lost the rest of their matches finding themselves in an unenviable situation with four points in the overall standings.

Russeifa: The newcomers have the worst scoring record at 8-45 and are the only teams to have lost all their matches, thus having no points in the overall standings.

They were heavily beaten 8-0 by Al Ahli, 6-0 by Hussein and Jazireh and 4-0 by Al Ramtha. Unless a miracle happens, they seem destined to be the first of the four teams to be relegated.

Schedule of 12th week

Thurs. 7/12	Ahli vs Sahab	Amman Stadium
Thurs. 7/12	Russeifa vs Qadissieh	Salt Stadium
Fri. 8/12	Jazireh vs Hussein	Amman Stadium
Fri. 8/12	Ramtha vs Kufroum	Hassan Stadium (Irbid)
Fri. 8/12	Faisali vs Baqaa	Salt Stadium
Mon. 11/12	Wihdat vs Jalil	Amman Stadium

STANDINGS AFTER 1ST LEG

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Ramtha	11	7	3	1	16	4	24
Hussein	11	6	4	1	23	7	22
Kufroum	11	5	5	1	14	7	20
Faisali	11	5	4	2	15	7	19
Wihdat	11	5	4	2	17	10	19
Qadissieh	11	5	3	3	15	11	18
Jazireh	11	4	3	4	17	16	15
Ahli	11	3	5	3	15	10	14
Baqaa	11	3	3	5	18	19	12
Sahab	11	1	7	3	9	24	10
Jalil	11	1	1	9	9	26	4
Russeifa	11	1	1	11	8	45	0

76ers, Grizzlies on losing streak

PHOENIX (R) — The misery continued for the expansion Vancouver Grizzlies and the long-suffering Philadelphia 76ers on Tuesday as each club saw lengthy losing streaks extended.

The Suns handed the Grizzlies their 16th consecutive defeat as rookie Michael Finley scored 25 points and Charles Barkley added 24 to lead Phoenix to a 112-108 victory.

Greg Anthony and Blue Edwards scored 22 points apiece for Vancouver, which has not won since starting the season 2-0.

Kevin Johnson added 21 points and nine assists for the Suns, who never trailed in the game.

Phoenix held off Vancouver after the Grizzlies rallied from a 21-point third-quarter deficit to pull within four, 97-93, on a running jumper by Byron Scott with 5:35 to play.

"In the first half they pretty much ran it down our throats," said Vancouver coach Brian Winters. "The second half, we tightened up defensively, but we just dug too big of a hole."

At Indiana, Reggie Miller scored 23 points and Rik Smits added 16 as the Pacers handed the Philadelphia 76ers their 11th consecutive loss, 108-91.

Dale Davis finished with 15 points and 13 rebounds for Indiana, which snapped a

three-game slide. Vernon Maxwell scored a season-high 35 points and rookie Jerry Stackhouse finished with 26 points for the 2-13 Sixers, who are in the midst of their longest losing streak since dropping 13 in a row in 1973.

Indiana held a four-point halftime advantage and used a 14-5 run in the third quarter to break open the game.

"We're not playing well enough to win," said Stackhouse. "We gotta come to the game with the attitude that we're going to win in the fourth quarter."

Al Utah, Hakeem Olajuwon hit a turnaround jumper with 11 seconds left and the Houston Rockets scored the final six points to pull out a 103-100 victory over the Jazz.

Olajuwon and Robert Horry each scored 25 points and Clyde Drexler added 17 for Houston. Olajuwon also had nine rebounds, six assists and five blocked shots.

Karl Malone had 27 points and 12 rebounds and Chris Morris added 21 points for

Utah. John Stockton, the NBA's all-time assists leader, chipped in 15 points and 12 assists for the Jazz. He has dished out at least 10 assists in nine successive games.

In New York, the Knicks continued their mastery of the Mavericks with their ninth consecutive victory over Dallas, a 92-87 triumph.

Patrick Ewing scored 22 points and Derek Harper added 16 for the Knicks, who are 10-0 when holding opponents under 100 points this season.

The Knicks (13-41) used a 15-3 second-quarter run and an 18-6 third-quarter spurt to hold Dallas at bay.

Jamal Mashburn scored 21 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for Dallas, which has lost 10 of its last 12 games after getting out to a 4-0 start.

In San Antonio, Sean Elliott scored 15 of his 22 points in the first quarter and David Robinson had 14 of his 24 in the third as the Spurs raced past the Los Angeles Lakers 117-89.

NBA RESULTS

Indiana	108	Philadelphia	91
New York	92	Dallas	87
Houston	103	Utah	100
San Antonio	117	LA Lakers	89
Phoenix	112	Vancouver	98
Seattle	119	Toronto	89
Orlando	114	LA Clippers	105

Kingdom's auto sports season concludes Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's top auto sports competitors are all set and ready for the final event of the season, the National Rally, which will start from the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan at 10 a.m. Friday.

The rally is contested by leading drivers as it will decide the 1995 Jordan Drivers Open and co-drivers championships.

Ahmad Al Daoud leads the standings with 155 points followed by last year's winner Bashar Bustami with 136 and Ma'rouf Abu Samra in third place with 114 points.

The route of the rally is near Qatana, 90 kilometres south of Amman. Participants will be driving 297 kilometres testing their skills through 67 kilometres of six special stages named Swaga, Hafira and Manzil.

Competitors will drive three stages before regrouping at noon. The reverse route through the same stages will end the rally with the first car expected at RACJ by 3:45 p.m.

Final results will be announced at the prize giving ceremony Saturday evening.

Arab Clubs Championship Wihdat-Wihdeh draw 1-1

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Following impressive displays of advanced teamwork during their first two matches, Al Wihdat Wednesday disappointed fans when they could only manage a 1-1 draw with Yemen's Al Wihdeh in their third match at the 11th Arab Clubs Soccer Championship in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

The Yemeni team had lost all their matches and it was expected that Al Wihdat would score an easy win.

Al Wihdeh took an early lead, but Al Wihdat dominated throughout most of the match and lost some easy scoring chances.

Jihad Abdul Mune'm scored his team's equaliser in the final minute of the match after receiving a pass from his brother Hisham.

Al Wihdat had lost 3-2 to Kuwait's Kathima and 1-0 to Algeria's Bluzdad and had already lost their chance to qualify as only the top two teams of each group will advance to the semifinal round.

Group A includes Algeria's Bluzdad, Kuwait's Kathima, Yemen's Al Wihdeh, hosts Al Nasr in addition to Al Wihdat. Group B includes Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia's Al Tarajji, Bahrain's Rifa' Maghrebi, Sudan's Al Hilal and Palestine's Jabal Al Mukabber.

Only Kathima and Bluzdad remain unbeaten in the 10-team tournament. Bluzdad topped group 1 with 9 points after beating Al Wihdeh 5-0 in an earlier match.

Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal and Tunisia's Tarajji top group 2. Al Wihdat will next play Saudi hosts Al Nasr on Friday before returning to Amman to begin their matches in the Premier League on Monday (see separate story).

Al Wihdat's delegation includes 22 players: Youssef Al Amouri, Naser Ghandour, Ibad Abdul Mune'm, Isam Mahmoud, Abdallah Abu Zame'h, Faisal Ibrahim, Samir Bahlouz, Sufyan Abdallah, Jamal Mahmoud, Munir Abu Hantash, Marwan Al Shamali, Khaled Al Majdalawi, Othman Barhoume, Adnan Al Tawil, Walid Mikha'il, Ra'af Ali, Yaser Abu Johar, Mohammad Aff, Shahr Hamdan, Hisham Abdul Mune'm and Mohammad Al Hawi.

Results of matches held so far:

Group 1	
Bluzdad (Algeria)-Wihdeh (Yemen)	5-0
Nasr (S.Arabia)-Wihdeh (Yemen)	4-0
Kathima (Kuwait)-Wihdat (Jordan)	3-2
Kathima (Kuwait)-Wihdeh (Yemen)	4-1
Bluzdad (Algeria)-Nasr (S. Arabia)	1-0
Bluzdad (Algeria)-Wihdat (Jordan)	1-0

Group 2	
Hilal (Sudan)-Mukabber	4-0
Rifa' (Bahrain) - Mukabber (Palestine)	2-0
Hilal (S. Arabia)-Rifa'	2-0
Tarajji (Tunisia)-Hilal (Sudan)	1-0
Hilal (S. Arabia)-Tarajji (Tunisia)	1-1

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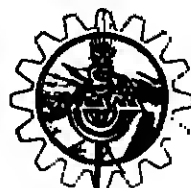
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The works include the design, manufacture, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of the following:

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- 33KV cables between the refinery 33KV switchboard and the new APC Township terminal pole, 250 metres long.
- One (1) new 33KV overhead transmission line between the refinery and APC Township outdoor substation, 17.5km. long.
- Re-string the existing Lisan 33KV transmission line between the APC Township outdoor substation and the main brine intake pumping station on the Dead Sea, about 15km long.
- Replace all three (3) existing 33KV outdoor oil circuit breakers with SF6 type circuit breaker (1200A) at the Township outdoor substation, complete with uprated protection, metering and whatever necessary to bring this outdoor substation into full operational service for the increased load current.

2. TENDER DOCUMENTS

Tender documents are available from the Company Head Office in Shmeisani, Amman, from 07/12/1995 till 23/12/1995 against a non-refundable payment of JD100 per copy.

Tenderers will be required to submit their offers in three(3) envelopes. The first containing a tender guarantee in the amount of JD 50,000, the second containing the Technical Offer and Experience in details, and the third containing the Financial Offer. Any tender not accompanied by a tender guarantee will not be considered.

Closing date for the submission of tenders to the Amman, Shmeisani offices of the Arab Potash Company Limited is 12:00 noon of January 20, 1996.

S. Hawari
Managing Director

Marinos capture J-League title

TOKYO (AP) — The Yokohama Marinos on Wednesday captured the 1995 Japanese professional soccer league championship for the first time, beating Verdy Kawasaki 1-0.

More than 48,000 spectators at Tokyo's national stadium saw Masami Ihara head in the game's only goal from the left corner of the goal area in the 29th minute.

Verdy, the 1993-1994 league champion, was unable to find their rhythm under tight marking by the Marinos.

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GCE EXAMINATIONS

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Registration time: 09:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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We encourage candidates to register during this period to avoid payment of the late entry fee.

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Cowboys still looking for homefield advantage

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys have spent the season talking about how important it is to be at home in the playoffs rather than in San Francisco. But now, with three weeks left, the Cowboys find themselves in a must-win situation.

Washington, winners of just four games, beat the Cowboys 24-17 on Sunday, the first time since 1987 the Redskins have swept Dallas. The result leaves the Cowboys with three losses, one less than San Francisco.

But if the 49ers finish three and Dallas loses one (possible in Philadelphia next Sunday), then San Francisco suddenly has the home field, courtesy of its 38-20 win at Texas stadium on Nov. 12.

The scenario: San Francisco's schedule is a bit tougher — at Carolina, Minnesota at home, and at Atlanta. But the way the 49ers are playing, they should win them. Dallas' last three games are at Philadelphia, at home to the Giants and at Arizona.

If they don't win the last two, they don't deserve to be in the playoffs, let alone have home field.

But the Eagles will be angry after a loss in Seattle that may have happened because they were looking ahead to Dallas. Both Ray Rhodes (San Francisco's former defensive coordinator) and offensive coordinator Jon Gruden (ex-Green Bay) know the Cowboys well and Rodney Peete was Dallas' backup last year.

That's the formula for an upset. All this might have been different if Cowboys owner Jerry Jones had immediately after the 1993 season. That might have allowed him to make Norv Turner his coach, although in truth Turner had committed to Washington during the playoffs.

So be settled for Barry Switzer, a college coach out of a job and pliable enough to allow Jones to play "coach Jones" in each of the three losses this year. Switzer has been one step behind — no Turner twice and to Marc Trestman, San Francisco's offensive coordinator.

How serious can that get? Well, San Francisco has the tiebreaker. It also has a three-way tiebreaker if it ties Green Bay and Dallas at 12-4, although the Cowboys would still get a bye because they beat the Packers.

And if the Cowboys have a psychological block about the 49ers, playing them on the road won't be any easier. It might even be impossible.

"Why wouldn't we be focused?" a befuddled Switzer asked Sunday.

Maybe he should ask Jones. Coaching desperation: "We just had to find a way — any way — to stop the bleeding," Keith Byars, the Dolphins' fullback, said after Miami's 21-20 win over Atlanta.

NFL ANALYSIS

Yes, there was an air of desperation to a game the Dolphins pulled out on a vintage Dan Marino touchdown drive that covered 72 yards (metres) in 1 minute, 37 seconds.

Three times — twice in the first half — coach Don Shula went for a first down on fourth down. He made it all three times. Twice Shula went for 2-point conversions and missed. He probably started that too early — when the Dolphins pulled to 14-9 in the second quarter.

But the Dolphins finally got a break because coach June Jones made an ill-conceived decision.

With fourth down a half-yard (half-metre) to go at the Miami 27 and less than two minutes left, Jones went for a first down. Instead of having Morten Andersen kick a 45-yard (metre) field goal that would have put the Falcons up by eight.

"You can either try to turn out the lights or you play it safe," said Jones, who earlier went for his own ill-conceived 2-pointer. "We tried to turn the lights out."

But as Jones also admitted: "Sometimes you have to overcome the coaching."

Chang falls at 1st hurdle

MUNICH (AFP) — Michael Chang, whose astonishing energy pitched him into the ATP Championship final two weeks ago, crashed out in the first round of the six million dollar Grand Slam Cup on Tuesday.

Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands surprised the American 7-6 (12/10), 6-3 but Chang said afterwards he had not been as tired as he had looked.

"I think that part of it may be I didn't give myself enough time to get used to the court," he said. "The court is a little bit quicker than what I have been playing on. I had my opportunities to win today's match but wasn't able to capitalise on those opportunities."

Boris Becker, who beat Chang in the ATP Championship final two weeks ago, was made to fight all the way by Frenchman Cedric Pioline.

Becker won 6-1, 6-7 (2-7), 9-7 in 2hr 7min when the Frenchman threw away his last service game.

Pioline, ranked 56th in the world, lost to the world number four in the Wimbledon quarter-finals by the same score in the last set and he again paid the penalty for not going to the net often enough.

"It's annoying because it's always the same. I get into a good position but I can't finish the match," said the Frenchman.

The German broke Pioline in the 15th game of the third set and then held serve, finishing with his 19th ace to qualify for a second round match against Byron Black of Zimbabwe.

Black, 40th in the world, had knocked out Austria's world number three Thomas Muster, never comfortable on an indoor carpet, 7-6, 2-6, 6-1.

Black had replaced American world number two Andre Agassi while Pioline was standing in for Germany's Michael Stich.

Becker climbed out of a hole when he lost the first two points in the 10th game of the third set but fought back with two aces and a backhand drop shot to pull level at 5-5.

UEFA Cup quarterfinals Bayern Munich, Barcelona advance

LONDON (AP) — Portuguese side Benfica is hoping it never sees Bayern Munich striker Juergen Klinsmann again.

The German international scored two goals as Bayern won at Benfica 3-1 Tuesday to advance 7-2 on aggregate to the UEFA Cup quarterfinals. His two goals in the third-round, second-leg match went with four he scored in the first-leg match — meaning he scored six of the German team's seven goals in the two games.

Bayern, among the favourites to win the Cup, was joined in the quarterfinals by Spain's Barcelona — another favourite. Also moving through were England's Nottingham Forest, Holland's PSV Eindhoven, and Roma of Italy.

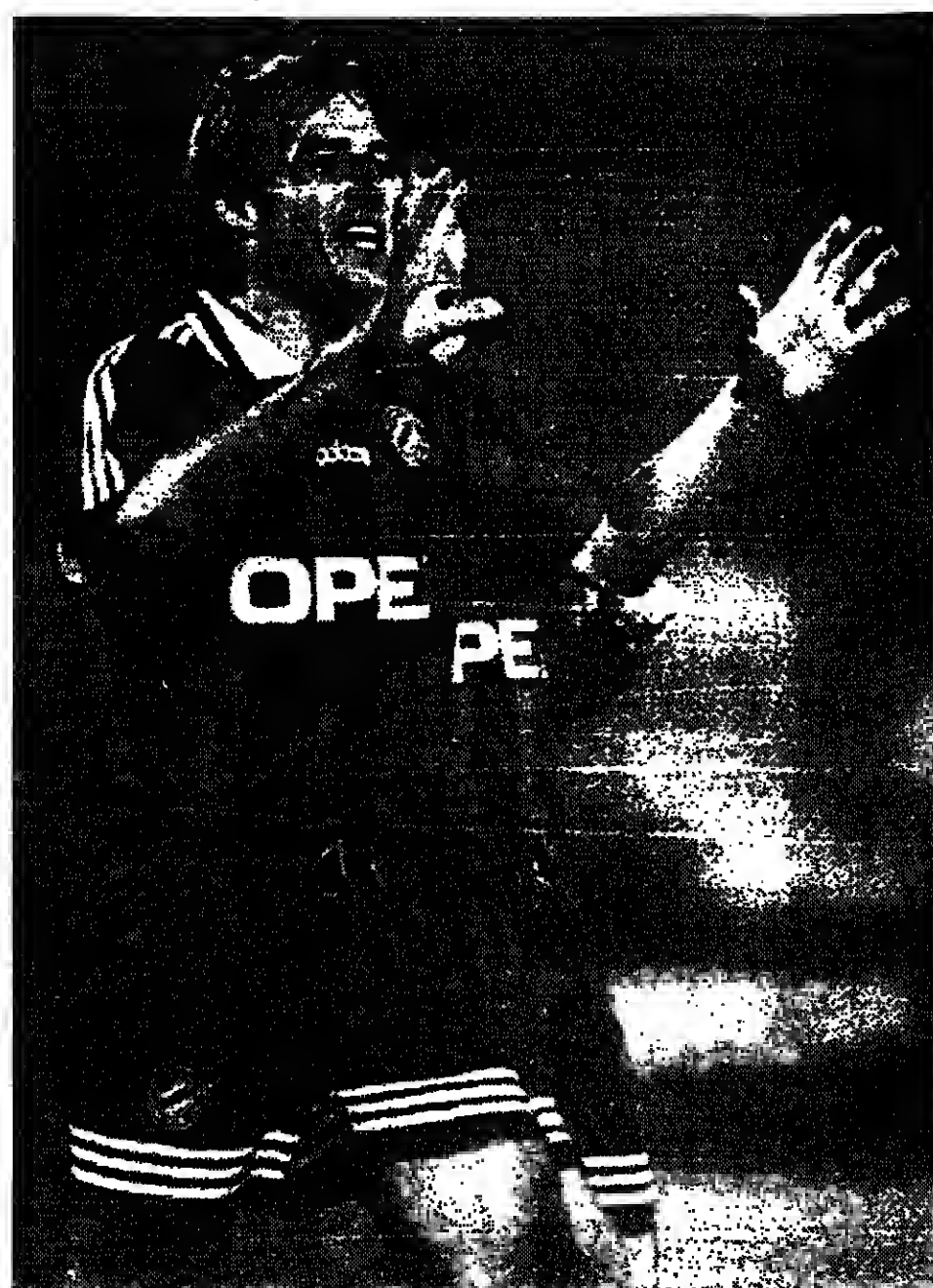
Three other UEFA Cup, third-round, second-leg games are on tap for Wednesday and Thursday to complete the round and determine the eight quarterfinalists.

Spanish side Real Betis plays at home Wednesday against France's Bordeaux Miroir, and on Thursday AC Milan is at Sparta Prague and Slavia Prague is at French side Lens.

Bayern Munich 3, Benfica 1: In Lisbon, Benfica went ahead in the 13th minute on goal by Brazilian Valdo Filho. But Klinsmann made it 1-1 in the 31st and made it 2-1 in the 66th. The German club's final goals came in the 81st when midfielder Andreas Herzog made it 3-1. Only 15,000 fans saw the match at Benfica's stadium of light, figuring the Portuguese could not make up after losing the first-leg match 4-1.

Barcelona 3, Sevilla 1: In Barcelona, the winners got three goals in the second half to advance 4-1. Playing in pouring rain, Barcelona midfielder Jose Maria Bakero made it 1-0 in the 62nd minute on a centering pass from Romanian Gheorghe Hagi.

Barcelona was up 2-0 in the 79th minute as Romanian Gheorghe Popescu unleashed a powerful shot from beyond the penalty area that ricocheted off the foot of Sevilla's Juan "Juanito" Francisco Rodriguez and confused goalie Jose Carlos unzué.



Bayern Munich striker Juergen Klinsmann celebrates one of his two goals during a UEFA Cup third-round second leg match against Portuguese Benfica (Reuters photo)

The goal came 11 minutes after Sevilla defender Jose Miguel Prieto was sent off following a hard tackle. Sevilla cut it to 2-1 in the 80th on a goal by Gabriel Moya Sanz, but Barcelona finished off the scoring in the 82nd on a goal by Robert Garcia Junyent.

Roma 3, Brondby 1: In Rome, Italian defender Amedeo Carboni kicked in the decisive goal in the last minute to give Roma a 3-1 victory against Brondby and a berth in the quarterfinals. Roma advanced 4-3 on aggregate.

Francesco Totti game: Roma a 1-0 lead in the 22nd minute. And Argentine striker Abel Balbo made it 2-0 in the 71st minute.

But with six minutes left, Brondby's Peter Moeller silenced the partisan crowd with a goal, which made it 3-3 on aggregate and seemed to signal extra time. Then came Carboni's winning goal off a pass from Totti to advance the Italians.

WHAT A COUNT!
Opening lead: Queen of ♠. When it comes to magic in the play of the cards, few if any can match the late Helen Sobel Smith. It was not just the wizardry she displayed in playing a hand, but the speed with which she came up with spectacular coups. This hand is from a rubber bridge game at New York's Cavanaugh Club of yore.

Helen had the right to expect a little more from her partner for the jump to four spades. Even so, the grand slam needed no more than a 3-2 heart break to be laid down. Declarer won the opening club lead in hand and drew trumps in two rounds with the ace and queen. Next came the ace of diamonds and a diamond ruff, followed by a club to the ace, on which East discarded a diamond, and another diamond ruff. Now declarer cashed the ace of hearts, then ruffed her remaining club in dummy.

By now declarer had established that West had started with two spades, one heart, three diamonds and seven clubs. So when declarer led a heart from dummy and East followed with the five, Helen finessed the suit. That brought in all the tricks.

Note that would not have helped East to split the heart honors. Declarer would win, then cross to dummy with a trump to lead a heart and take the marked finesse.

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Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ K 10 7 6
♥ Q 7 4 2
♦ A J 5
♣ A 5

WEST
♠ A 5 2
♥ Q 8
♦ K Q 10
♣ J 9 6 4 3 2

EAST
♠ A 9 4
♥ J 10 5 3
♦ Q 9 8 7 6 4 2
♣ 4 10

SOUTH
♠ A Q 8 3
♥ A K Q 6
♦ Q 3
♣ K 8 7

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
10 Pass 2♠ Pass
4♠ Pass 4NT Pass
50 Pass SNT Pass

Declarer won the opening club

lead in hand and drew trumps in two rounds with the ace and queen.

Next came the ace of diamonds and a diamond ruff, followed by a club to the ace, on which East discarded a diamond, and another diamond ruff. Now declarer cashed the ace of hearts, then ruffed her remaining club in dummy.

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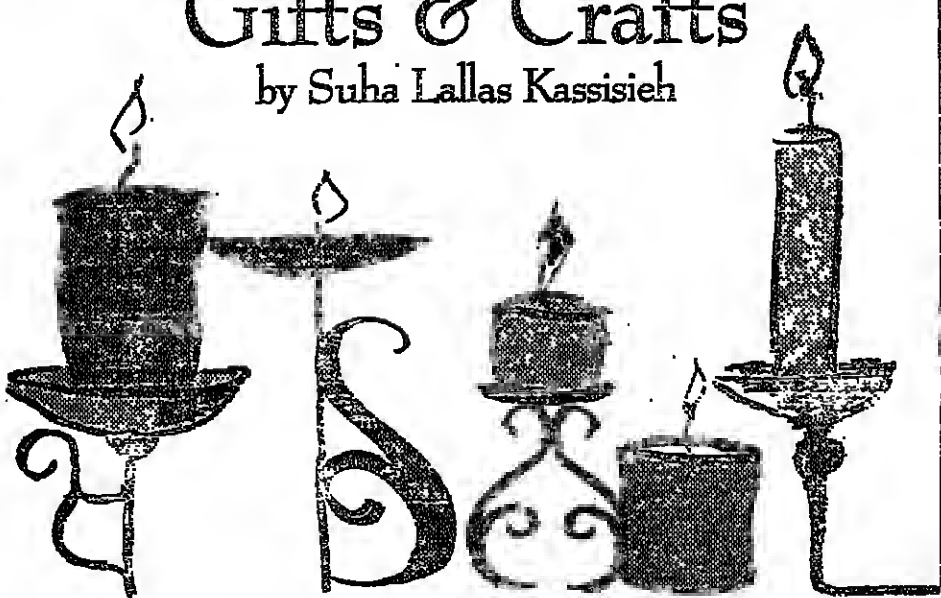
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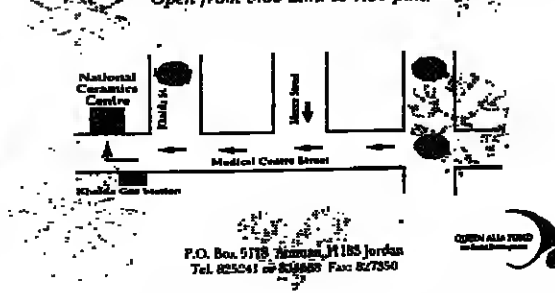
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Chaos, alleged fraud in Egypt's final round poll

CAIRO (Agencies) — Amid chaos and charges of election fraud, Egyptians voted Wednesday in runoff elections for parliament. At least seven people were killed and dozens wounded in clashes between rival supporters.

More than 600 candidates were vying for 306 seats in the People's Assembly, or parliament. In the first round last week, the government took 90 per cent of 138 seats decided. The rest went to independents, many of them government supporters.

Opposition candidates, including supporters of the influential Muslim Brotherhood, did not win a single seat.

"Today is a chance for voters to do away with the vote-rigging and the expropriation of democracy," read the headline Wednesday in the newspaper of the Islamist-oriented Liberal Party.

Opponents of President Hosni Mubarak have complained of fraud, accusing the government of stuffing ballots, barring election monitors and using supporters. The U.S. State Department pointedly refused to call the election free and fair.

Government officials have shrugged off the accusations. They say the poor showing by the Brotherhood and opposition parties reflected their lack of support and the ruling National Democratic Party's (NDP) popularity.

The Brotherhood and the allied Labour Party were backing at least 30 candidates in the runoffs — the largest group of opposition candidates running. Results are not expected until Thursday, but five candidates withdrew Wednesday to protest the reports of fraud.

Courts hearing suits alleging fraud in the first round have ruled that results from over half the constituencies where the government announced winners cannot be considered final.

The court rulings, issued on Tuesday and in some cases in the early hours of Wednesday, drag the elections into a legal tangle which could take weeks to unravel.

Government newspapers and judicial and opposition sources in the provinces said on Wednesday that administrative courts had "suspended the decision to declare results" in at least 53 constituencies, pending suits alleging electoral abuses.

The ruling means that the winners cannot take their seats in parliament until the courts decide in their favour.

In one court in the Suez Canal town of Ismailia, witnesses for independent candidate Abdelati Al Sayyad said dead people were on the electoral registers and they had seen the voting cards of their supporters thrown out into the street.

The Interior Ministry has declared 137 winners in the race of the 444 parliamentary seats at stake. The ruling NDP won 124 seats and independents 13.

In Matruh, a poor Cairo area where a Brotherhood supporter faced a government candidate, dozens of police and plainclothes security men guarded voting stations. Turnout was light.

"People are frustrated because they lost confidence in elections after the widespread rigging they saw last time. That's why few are coming today," said Mokhtar Nuhi, the Brotherhood candidate.

But he added, "I have trust in God that I will win this election despite the forgery."

Mr. Nuhi and his supporters accused police of barring election monitors from polling stations and stuffing ballot boxes — the same complaints heard during the first round. Police tried to disperse crowds complaining to reporters about vote-rigging.

Across Egypt, supporters of rival candidates clashed with guns, knives and sticks,

leaving at least six dead and dozens wounded.

— In Qena in southern Egypt, supporters of the ruling party candidate stormed a polling station and killed three backers of an independent candidate, police said. Nine people were wounded.

— In Shebin Al Khayma, north of Cairo, a gunbattle erupted between supporters of an independent and ruling party candidate. Police said one person was killed and 10 wounded. Another person was killed in a clash in the Nile Delta, but police had no details.

— In Giza, south of Cairo, a supporter of an independent candidate was shot and killed, police said.

— In Damietta on the Mediterranean Sea, supporters of an Islamist candidate stormed a polling station, dumped ballot boxes and tried to prevent people from voting, police said.

NDP and independent partisans also clashed in the Delta town of Al Husseinia, leaving one man dead.

The U.S. State Department urged Egypt on Monday to investigate charges of vote rigging during the first round.

The Liberal Party announced Wednesday its leading candidate, Mustapha Bakri, had decided to drop out of the race in the south Cairo district of Helwan against Religious Affairs Minister Mohammad Ali Mahgub.

Mr. Bakri abandoned the race "to protest the flagrant intervention by security services and the government in favour of" Mr. Mahgub, the party said in a statement.

It charged Mr. Mahgub with providing "a thousand ministry employees with false ballots as well as knives and weapons" to intimidate voters.

But police said seven Bakri supporters were arrested Wednesday morning with 63 Molotov cocktails.

Cabinet okays concession deal with National Oil Company

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazah on Wednesday announced that the Council of Ministers approved a concession agreement with the newly established National Oil Company (NOC).

The minister, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the government plans to submit the agreement to the Lower House of Parliament in its current session for debate and approval.

The JD 20 million NOC, which was formally registered with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, is governed by a board which includes senior government officials chaired by Rajab Sa'ad, general manager of the Industrial Development Bank.

The company, which was created through a government decision, will be

granted concession to prospect for oil and natural gas in the Rishah district, close to the Iraqi border with Jordan.

Mr. Darwazah has said the company would focus its initial operations on prospecting because there were positive signs of the presence of commercial quantities in that district.

Mr. Darwazah said the NOC was expected to start operations after Parliament approves the agreement.

He said the company had received invitations from the Algerian and Sudanese governments to study prospects of cooperation between the company and the two countries in prospecting for oil and natural gas.

The NOC board has appointed Dr. Fayez Suheimat, former director general of the Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation,

as NOC's general manager. The Council of Ministers also approved the creation of a public shareholding company which will undertake imports and manufacture of agricultural production input and equipment.

The farmers federation and government agencies will have equity in the new company.

The Council of Ministers also approved an increase in the capital of the Jordanian Loan Guarantee Corporation (JLGC) by JD 10 million to JD 10 million and approved a transport agreement with the Philippines.

In response to a request by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Cabinet changed the name of the Wadi Al Yabis town to Wadi Rayyan, and the Zahraa town to Rawdat Rashed.

PNA says it will disarm vigilantes in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian National Authority (PNA) security chiefs said Wednesday they would disarm underground activists in West Bank areas that come under their control and that 93 vigilantes have already handed over their weapons.

The assurances were directed at Israel, which has expressed concern about armed Palestinian gangs after four Israeli soldiers were wounded in two ambushes in the West Bank in a week.

Israel has threatened to slow down its troop withdrawal from West Bank towns and villages unless Palestinian police did more to prevent attacks on Israelis.

"It is impossible to have more than one authority," Colonel Ribhi Arafat, a Palestinian liaison officer with Israel in the West Bank town of Jenin, said Wednesday.

"We will not allow armed groups to operate here," he said.

A senior Palestinian security official said that since the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) took control of Jenin last month, 93 vigilantes, including members of the Black Panthers and the Fatah Hawks groups, have

handed in their weapons. The former vigilantes will be trained and eventually join the Palestinian police, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Also Wednesday, Israeli troops started dismantling the central military complex in the West Bank town of Nablus, which is to be handed to Palestinian control by Dec. 15. Soldiers drove away mobile homes, took down two satellite dishes and cleaned the main building which also contains a jail.

Israeli troops are to pull out of five West Bank towns — Nablus, Tulkarem, Kalkilya, Bethlehem and Ramallah — by the end of the year.

A senior Israeli peace negotiator, meanwhile, said Israel would keep a promise to release 1,000 Palestinian security prisoners before the Palestinian elections, scheduled for Jan. 20 (see page 2).

For the first time on Wednesday, Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were able to travel on their own passports.

"It means that any Palestinian go out through the airport or across the borders using a Palestinian passport," said Jamil Tarifi, the Palestinian minister of transport

who made the announcement.

Mr. Tarifi said he hoped the move was another step towards Palestinian statehood.

In the past, Palestinians have had to travel from the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Israeli papers or passports issued by other Arab countries such as Jordan and Egypt. But now they can cross any Israeli-controlled border.

Once abroad, more than 30 countries have acknowledged the passport, most of them Arab and Muslim countries.

The PNA has issued 33,000 green Palestinian passports to residents of the autonomy zones in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Before an individual can travel, however, Israel has to give its approval.

Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the Israeli military government in the West Bank, estimated 12,000 requests for validation of passports had been received so far.

"As of today, we are accepting the Palestinian passports," he said. "But if someone lives in Jordan or fled during the wars in 1967 or 1948 then he would not get a passport approved."



AMMAN SUMMIT: His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres holds talks in Amman on Wednesday during a brief visit the Israeli leader paid to Jordan for consultations with the King ahead of a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington on Dec. 11 (see page one) (photo by Youssef Allan)

U.S., Jordan discuss military ties

AMMAN (AP) — Jordan and the United States on Wednesday resumed discussions on the Kingdom's defence needs in line with a pledge by President Bill Clinton to provide military aid and training for the Kingdom.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai met with General John Jumper, deputy commander of the U.S. Central Command.

It said Gen. Mirai and

Gen. Jumper, also chief of the air force component of Central Command, "reviewed the situation in the region in general and ways of cooperation and coordination in issues of mutual interest." It did not elaborate.

A U.S. embassy spokesperson said Gen. Jumper, who arrived here earlier in the day, would hold "wide-ranging discussions" with Jordanian officials.

"The talks are in con-

tinuation of a dialogue with the Jordanians on the country's defence needs and cooperation between the United States Army and the Jordanian Armed Forces," the spokesperson said in exchange for anonymity.

Gen. Jumper is one of several senior U.S. military officials to visit the Kingdom, which has secured a pledge from the Clinton administration for military aid and training to upgrade its armed forces.

Israeli writer 'dismayed' at Jordanian hardliners' stand

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Israeli writer and intellectual said Wednesday that he would leave Amman more than a little disappointed after failing to engage some of Jordan's peace rejectionists in an open and direct debate.

"It's a crying shame," said Amos Oz on a two-day visit to Amman at the invitation of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. "The rejectionists won't speak, but as an Israeli, I am curious about their rejectionist attitudes."

"Is it the idea of peace that puts them off," he asked. "If someone has the urge to tell me his terrible, or I'm terrible, why shouldn't he tell me so and give me a chance to answer?"

Mr. Oz, former editor of the influential Israeli periodical The Seventh Day and a pro-peace writer, said he was surprised to find that in Jordan, he had more difficulty communicating with Jordan's hardliners than he did in the Palestinian territories and Israel.

"I came because I am curious about the (rejectionists in Jordan), in the territories, there are the religious people and the Nasserists, people whom I have no difficulty talking with — people here are much more reserved."

Jordan's anti-peace and normalisation camp — mainly pan-Arab leftists and Islamists — while more moderate than in Israel, still cling to an absolute policy of "no

contact" and "no association" with Israelis. Mr. Oz called the phenomena a "worrying one."

"Where do we go from here?" he asked. "Do you just rub your eyes as if it was all a bad nightmare and as if you can just clear it away in minutes?"

Such a stand leaves us nowhere, he says. "Peace is our reality."

"I don't mind fierce debate and disagreement about our histories. We can live with contradicting narratives about who is to blame, but we have to start talking about the future," he said.

Jordan's opposition, most obviously manifested in a nascent tabloid press and in Islamist-controlled professional unions which threaten members with expulsion from their respective associations for association with Israel and its nationals, has provoked the government to warn that unless the associations let up pressure on their members, and unless the press tones its voice to moderation, both may face unpleasant consequences.

"I wouldn't like to see the rejectionists be pressed (solely) for the sake of others," Mr. Oz said. "(Jordan) needs an open and frank debate about the issue."

There is a "silent majority" in both countries, he believes, most evidently in Israel where the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin brought this party to the fore.

"Since Oslo in 1993, the streets were dominated by right-wing demonstrators," he recalled. "One might have thought that Israelis really didn't want peace. But, when Rabin died, one million young Israelis — the silent majority — came out of the closet, taking to the streets singing peace songs, lighting candles."

"My impression is that in Amman, most people are reluctantly pro-peace — they aren't happy, but they are realistic," he said.

Mr. Oz rejects the idea that the governments of both Israel and Jordan could have generated more support for the idea of peace among the opposition had they been more forthcoming from the beginning.

"King Hussein has led the way and then win hearts," says Mr. Oz. "Rabin and Peres recognised the PLO and bargained with them at a time when eight or nine out of ten Israelis said Israel should never do that — if they had waited, we would never have made peace."

"Every great leader is called a traitor by his own people — look at Churchill in dismantling the empire. Charles de Gaulle in Algeria and Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat — it's okay."

"After all, what's treason?" he asked. "Every single person who changes is a traitor in the eyes of those who cannot change, will not change and cannot possibly imagine a change."

Al Hayat trial deferred until Dec. 18

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Salameh Ne'matt, the Amman correspondent of the London-based Al Hayat newspaper, appeared in court Wednesday for allegedly violating two articles of the Press and Publications Law concerning accuracy and national security but the trial was put off until Dec. 18.

Mr. Ne'matt told the Jordan Times that the postponement came because the publisher and editor of Al Hayat, which printed his article on Sept. 20, had not been formally informed of the trial

date hence they were not present in court.

In the Sept. 20 article Mr. Ne'matt quoted "informed and official sources" as saying that after the defection to Jordan of two senior Iraqis on Aug. 8, Iraq was trying to recruit Jordanian journalists and to revive all pro-Baghdad forces in Jordan by offering gifts to create a trend that runs counter to the official Jordanian position towards Iraq.

He said that a list of 42 journalists and former and current officials was being investigated by the government.

Mr. Ne'matt was detained

for two days by the prosecutor general in October and was released on bail pending trial. His lawyers are Rabie Hamzeh, Saleh Jaroudi and Amin Abu Sharekh.

The prosecutor general sent a representative to attend the Wednesday's court session presided over by Judge Tawfiq Al Qaisi.

The prosecutor general, Jamal Zoubi, launched his investigation after leading journalist Tareq Masarweh wrote an article in the Arabic daily, Al Ra'i, threatening to sue Mr. Ne'matt and Al Hayat to reveal the names of the people in the alleged list.

French N-tests to end early

PARIS (AFP) — France, under fire for its nuclear tests in the South Pacific, said Wednesday it would complete the programme in February of next year rather than May as originally planned.

"The final series of French nuclear tests should finish before the end of February 1996, well before the date originally announced of May 31, 1996," Defence Minister Charles Millon told the French Senate.

President Jacques Chirac, in announcing the series of tests on June 13, said there would be seven or eight tests, and that they would be completed by the end of May.

Ministers have since suggested that only six tests will be carried out. Four have already taken place on the Mururoa and the Fangataua atolls in the South Pacific, on Sept. 5, Oct. 2, Oct. 27 and Nov. 21.

Mr. Millon made the comments during a presentation of the 1996 defence budget. He did not say whether the last test would be the sixth or the seventh.

The minister recalled that France had proposed that a global test ban treaty to be signed next year include the "zero option," under which all tests, no matter how small, be banned.

France "will therefore be in a position of strength at the start of March to call for a rapid conclusion of the negotiation of this treaty."

The series of tests, designed to be finished in time for France to sign the global test ban treaty, has caused shockwaves of protest, particularly in the region among countries like New Zealand, Australia and Japan.

Mr. Millon added that the purpose of the tests — to gather data necessary for carrying out computer simulations of tests and to guarantee the country's nuclear arsenal is in proper order — would be fulfilled.

"The renewal of our nuclear forces will be carried out on the basis of decisions taken by the president, in order to maintain them at a level indispensable to ensure the protection of our country's vital interests, whatever geo-strategic developments occur."

Of the last test carried out in November he said: "Analyses of the fourth test indicate that, like the three previous ones, has allowed us to obtain the scientific and technical data expected."

Relations with these and other countries have deteriorated as a result of the tests, and the London-based environmental group Greenpeace has launched a vigorous campaign mobilising opposition.

Ten of France's 14 partners in the European Union approved a United Nations resolution deploring the French tests, provoking French ire and leading to a suspension of scheduled diplomatic meetings.

Among them were Italy and Belgium, two of France's partners in the defence-oriented Western European Union (WEU). Only Britain, also a nuclear power, has clearly defended the French position on testing.

Deputies of the WEU, which France sees as the "European pillar" of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, were set Wednesday to express their disapproval at a meeting in Paris.

Novice treasure hunter finds hoard of Roman coins

LONDON (AFP) — A man using a newly-bought metal-detector discovered a hoard of 126 Roman gold coins, including some from the reign of the Emperor Nero, in a field near Oxford, the Times reported Wednesday.

"This is one of the richest finds of Roman gold ever made in this country," Roger Bland, a curator at the British Museum in London, told the paper. The coins cover roughly a century from A.D. 64 and were buried in a pot shortly before the death of the Emperor Antoninus Pius in A.D. 161, according to the Times. The local man — who wishes to remain anonymous — made the discovery in March this year and took the coins to a local auction house which contacted the British Museum. An inquest into whether the hoard should be declared treasure trove, and therefore the property of the crown, is to be held by the Oxford coroner Friday.

Goldberg takes on Republicans

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Actress Whoopi Goldberg — The Colour Purple — took on the Republicans in Congress, sharply criticising their plans to slash welfare programmes in order to balance the budget. "The welfare system works. I know it works because I'm here," she told a Senate hearing room full of children Tuesday. "I resent strongly the notion that the government is being drained by people on welfare," Goldberg said, adding that she also disliked Republican plans to cut taxes for the rich at the expense of the poor. On a more personal level, Goldberg's marriage a year ago to Hollywood union organiser Lyle Trachtenberg is over, according to the New York Daily News. She filed for divorce on Oct. 26 in Los Angeles under her real name, Caryn Johnson.

S. Korean drunk punches Chun look-alike

SEOUL (R) — A South Korean man with an unfortunate resemblance to disgraced former President Chun Doo Hwan was beaten up by a drunk after he got into a taxi, the Korea Times reported. "You look like Chun Doo Hwan who got arrested. You must be as bad as he is. I should punish you," the newspaper quoted his assailant as saying. Korean taxis are often shared by passengers travelling in the same direction. The newspaper quoted police in the southern city of Ulsan as saying Yang Chul-Won, 50, was drunk at the time. His victim was not only a Chun look-alike, he also shared the same surname.

Mime Marcel Marceau outtalks Michael Jackson

NEW YORK (R) — Singer Michael Jackson was outtalked by French mime Marcel Marceau when the two appeared before photographers to promote Jackson's U.S. television special next week. The notoriously shy singer only said "thank you," and that was in a whisper, when he appeared with Marceau, whose art he has long idolised. Jackson retired backstage after mugging for the camera for 90 seconds, imitating some of Marceau's mime motions like placing an arm on an imaginary shelf and trying to walk slowly against a strong wind.

17 killed in new militia battles in Baidoa

MOGADISHU (AFP) — At least 17 people were killed and five captured when heavy fighting erupted again between the Rahanwein Resistance Army (RRA) and militia loyal to General Mohammed Farah Aided in the southwestern town of Baidoa. RRA spokesman Mohammed Nur Jilay said Wednesday.

Mr. Jilay said that the dead were all militiamen loyal to Gen. Aided, who heads a faction of the United Somali Congress. Somali National Alliance (USCNSA), while among the captured were three Rahanweins and two officers from Gen. Aided's side.

The RRA spokesman said they would not talk to Gen. Aided over any exchange of prisoners, so long as Gen. Aided's forces still occupied their homeland, and he was keeping hundreds of unarmed Rahanwein people, some of whom are RRA sympathisers.

Mr. Jilay pledged that the RRA would respect all international regulations concerning the rights of war prisoners, but would only hand over war prisoners to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The new fighting comes as another round of fighting between two other Somali sub-clans, the Murusade and Abgal, which has been going on for the past two weeks in southern Mogadishu, died down after elders from both clans intervened.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Muhidin, the highest Islamic leader in north Mogadishu, issued a decree on Wednesday banning the carrying of all kinds of weapons in the streets of the Somali capital Mogadishu. The Al Sharia weekly paper reported.

The paper said that the banned weapons included "technicals" (armed wagons), assault rifles and hand grenades.

Al Sharia, which advocates strict implementation of Sharia laws in Somalia, said that when moving around with weapons, people should carry papers issued by Islamic courts authorising them to carry such weapons.

Although the paper did not give reasons behind the decree, residents here believed it was connected with the killing on Tuesday night of a young man at north Mogadishu's Cinema Liban by a gunman, who later refused to surrender his weapon.

The ban came nearly three weeks after Italian businessman Giancarlo Morocchino narrowly escaped an assassination through a landmine, and burning down of the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) warehouses in north Mogadishu.

North Mogadishu has also banned pornographic movies, export of male animals, animal bones and ivory from ports controlled by Sharia militiamen, who support warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammad's Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA) faction.

There are 38 functioning Sharia courts in Somalia trying to maintain peace and security.